

## CHOLERA, &c.

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THE fact that through certain phenomena presented with tolerable uniformity by epidemics, there runs an analogy which, taken in connexion with circumstances attending their movements, progress, and termination, has led to the thought that their causes, although involved in impenetrable obscurity, may be few—similar—perhaps identical; while the effects they produced were modified by accidents, incident to their evolution, by circumstances pertaining to the subjects acted on; or by contingencies connected with season, climate, &c. This view, it must be admitted, accords well with the simplicity of Nature, who produces the greatest number and variety of effects from the fewest possible causes, in which her wisdom is apparent, and manifestly different from that of man, who is prone to overlook the simple means by which her vast machinery is put and kept in motion for the attainment of results the most grand and sublime. Ignorant of causes, we may, however, by watching the phenomena they originate, deduce the laws by which they are governed: and furthermore, by reasoning from effects, we are sometimes led to a knowledge of their causes.

By pursuing this method in respect to chemical affinity, gravitation, etc., philosophers have been able to deduce and settle their laws so firmly that we implicitly and unconsciously act on them in our daily pursuits; and by patient observance, careful analogy, and study of the phenomena of diseases, we have likewise become acquainted with the laws by which they are governed without knowing their causes. In respect to Cholera this method has been unfortunately too much neglected, and the attention has been diverted from its legitimate objects; hence the failure to ascertain and settle in a satisfactory manner, the laws by which its propagation from individual to individual is regulated and determined, and also its precise nature.