

Monmouth's works; Chronicon Angliae Petriburgie; Galfridi le Baker de Swinbroke; Incerti auctoris de regnis trium regum Lancast...

SANITARY MATTERS.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—It appears from the weekly return of births and deaths in the metropolis, published by the authority of the Registrar-General, that the public health in the whole in a satisfactory condition. The deaths for the week ending Saturday, the 16th inst., were 926, being a falling off of forty-six as compared with the averages of the last five summers.

"The Commissioners of Health do not, however, advise that, in the event of the appearance of cholera, hospital relief should be altogether dispensed with, as there is always, particularly in cities, a large class of destitute persons who have neither friends nor the means of support, and to such persons efficient relief cannot be afforded except in hospitals.

"The Commissioners of Health believe, that besides the advantage of affording prompt and efficient relief to destitute persons affected with cholera, the admission of such patients into the ordinary hospitals of the country would be attended with salutary moral effects.

"NATURE OF THE ATTACK.—It seems to be a well-established fact, and one that cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of the people generally, as upon this fact depends the best mode of successfully contending with the disease, that in nearly all cases of cholera there are two stages of the disease, the first being merely diarrhoea, or simple looseness of the bowels; the second being the stage of collapse, or blue cholera, marked by cramps, failure of the circulation, lividity of the skin, cold clammy perspiration, and all the other well-known symptoms of the disease.

"The first stage, diarrhoea, or mere looseness of the bowels, may be of only a few hours' duration, or may continue from one to several days. It is most important to bear in mind that during the prevalence of cholera, diarrhoea, or looseness of bowels, which is free from pain, is more dangerous, more likely to be the first stage of the disease, than diarrhoea accompanied with griping or uneasiness. This absence of pain, or the little accompanying uneasiness, has too often thrown the patient off his guard, who has thus neglected the warning of his danger, and has allowed the time for cure to pass by.

"It may be safely asserted that during the prevalence of an epidemic of cholera, diarrhoea, or looseness of bowels, which is free from pain, is more dangerous, more likely to be the first stage of the disease, than diarrhoea accompanied with griping or pain. Let it, then, be clearly understood, that when the epidemic is prevalent, mere looseness of the bowels, with or without pain, may be the commencement or first stage of cholera—that the disease is generally cured in this stage, and that not a moment should be lost in applying for relief.

"To afford this immediate relief, the Commissioners of Health recommend that every existing medical institution, whether hospital or dispensary, should be open day and night, during the prevalence of cholera, to all applicants, without distinction, where all who apply should obtain, without a moment's delay, advice and medicine; and from which all the poor, who may be unable to leave their dwellings, may be visited with promptitude, and supplied with medicine at home, or transferred (if requisite) to the hospital.

"To effect these objects, the following arrangements are recommended:—

"1. The prescribing-room of every medical institution, whether hospital or dispensary, should be open day and night without interruption during the prevalence of cholera, and a medical officer should be in constant attendance to prescribe for all applicants.

"2. Each hospital and dispensary should have a certain district allotted to it, and the attending porter or clerk should keep a book in which he should enter the names and residences of all applicants for the relief within the district who are unable to leave their homes. The book should show the time of application, and the name and residence of the patient.

"3. A second medical officer should be constantly in readiness to receive the names of all such applicants, and to proceed, without delay, to visit them. The visiting physician, instead of writing a prescription at the residence of the patient, should be provided with a small portable medicine-box, containing the medicines most generally required, made up in such a form as to render their administration as speedy and as simple as possible. Such portable medicine-boxes can be procured at a very small cost, or may be made up on an emergency, of pasteboard, or thin board, or tin, in the form of a book, about seven inches long, four inches broad, and one inch deep, with one of the sides to fold back, or open on hinges. The services of an apothecary will be required to keep up a constant supply of the medicines required, made up ready for use. The medical officers will generally give formulae for the medicines they may deem best. The following may, however, serve as an example of what should be generally provided in the pocket medicine-box, and the most portable forms for the medicines are selected: the directions should be as far as practicable, printed.

"POWDER.—Carbonate of ammonia, in waxed papers, each paper containing forty grains, with the following printed directions on the outside:—Dissolve this powder in half-a-pint of water; give two table-spoonfuls every hour.

"POWDER.—Compound powder of chalk with opium (Pain, Crema Creta Opioid) in packets each containing six papers, each paper containing ten grains of the powder, with printed directions:—One powder every half-hour until the looseness ceases.

"PILLS OF powdered opium, each containing one quarter of a grain of opium, and two grains of powdered ginger, made up with oil of cayenne, in pills to be in boxes, each box containing six pills, peppermint. The pills to be in boxes, each box containing six pills, peppermint. The pills to be in boxes, each box containing six pills, peppermint.

"PILLS OF mercury and opium, each containing one quarter of a grain of calomel, two grains of Hydrargyrum c. Creta (mercury with chalk), and a quarter of a grain of opium, made up with oil of cayenne (which will serve to distinguish them from the plain opium pills), in boxes, each containing six pills, with a printed label:—Mercury and opium pills, one every half-hour.

- "Bottles (one or two ounce phials, with cork stoppers). 1. Containing—Tincture of opium (laudanum), 2. Hoffman's liquor, 3. Tincture of stramonium, 4. Crocus. "Along with the box should be carried a small jar of strong brown mustard.

"The visiting physician should also be furnished with printed forms for the removal of hospital patients who are destitute of assistance in their own dwellings. In short, every measure should be adopted that will obviate the least delay. It may be necessary in some instances to establish temporary district dispensaries, but it is most desirable, for reasons already given, that the permanent institutions should be first made available.

"It is not within the purpose of a communication such as this to go into details of treatment. There are, however, two points on which the Commissioners of Health feel it will not be out of place to give to the public—the employment of frictions and the allowance of drink to the sick. The Commissioners cannot recommend that fluid applications of any kind should be employed in frictions on the body or limbs, as the cold consequent on prolonged exposure and evaporation more than counterbalances any supposed good effect from friction, which, if at all used, should be made merely with the warm hand, without disturbing the bed-clothes. The Commissioners also advise

that when patients suffer from thirst they should in general be permitted to drink freely, as experience shows that the denial of drink does not check vomiting, while it increases very much the suffering of the patient from the burning thirst that so often accompanies the disease.

"It is scarcely necessary to observe that, as far as empowered by act of parliament, the Commissioners of Health will afford all the co-operation and advice in their power to managing committees of public institutions, and to voluntary sanitary associations, whose aid may be most useful in carrying out the above measures. To fit the necessary precautions and instructions in the minds of the people, it is recommended that copies of the following circular be printed and extensively published and posted under the directions of the local committees.

PRECAUTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH.

"Shun damp and low situations, and, if possible, quit dwellings in such places, during the prevalence of cholera; keep your houses and rooms dry, and the windows and doors open as much and as long as the weather will permit; there can scarcely be too much ventilation. An abundant supply of fresh air is as necessary during the night as in the day, and pure air is as requisite for the support of life and health as good food.

"Remove all stagnant water and dung-heaps from around your dwellings, and clean out all sewers without delay. Do these things at once, without waiting for the outbreak of the disease. It will be unsafe and it will be too late to undertake them when cholera shall have broken out.

"Avoid chills; do not wear wet clothes a moment longer than can be avoided. Wear a flannel belt round the stomach and loins—make use of plain wholesome food, in the solid rather than in the liquid form—abstain from fruit, raw and ill cooked vegetables, pastry, smoked and hard salted meats, and salted fish, pork, eel, stale or sour meat drinks, pickles, and all articles of diet that from experience are known to have a purgative effect.

"Avoid purgative medicines, particularly castor oil, Seidlitz powders, and salts.

"Be very careful that the water used as drink is of good quality.

"Abstain from stimulants unless prescribed as remedies under medical advice. In former visitations of cholera many persons, both rich and poor, resorted to the use of stimulants—wine, whiskey, brandy, &c., under the false impression that what was sometimes useful as a cure was also good as a preventive. This is a great error. Stimulants frequently taken, or taken in excess, are followed by collapse, which predisposes to the disease, and the general health, moreover, is seriously and permanently injured by the practice. In fine, shun damp places, particularly for sleeping; breathe pure air; observe cleanliness; keep the surface of the body warm; avoid excesses of all kinds; use wholesome plain food; live temperately; preserve, as much as possible, a state of general good health, and you will have adopted the best safeguards against cholera.

"1. If attacked by diarrhoea or looseness of the bowels, however slight, whether with or without pain, apply without a moment's delay at the dispensary in —, where medical relief will be given at any hour of the day or night.

"2. Let notice be given without delay, at any hour of the day or night, at the same place, of the name and residence of any patient affected with vomiting, purging, or cramps, who may be unable to go out: immediate attendance will be given, and, if necessary, the patient will be removed to the hospital.

"Should you be attacked with diarrhoea or looseness of the bowels, with or without pain, and that medical advice is not at hand, go at once to bed, wrap yourself in warm blankets, roll a swathe warm flannel, sprinkled with hot spirits of turpentine, or whisky, closely round the body, extending from the chest to the hips, and take a table-spoonful of brandy or whiskey in a little water, with fifteen drops of laudanum, repeating it every hour, if the attack be not checked, until a third dose has been taken,—but do not venture further in the use of laudanum without medical advice.

"By order of the Commissioners, W. H. HOPPER, Secretary.

Central Board of Health, Dublin, 1st September, 1848.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

GENERAL BERTHIER, son and grandson of the two first victims of the Revolution of 1792 (Messrs Berthier, Intendant of Paris, and M. Foulon), died at his estate La Grande, near Thionville, on the 10th instant.

M. CHARLES D'ARAGON, one of the most esteemed members of the National Assembly, died on Friday of typhus fever, after two days' illness. He was only thirty-six years of age.

The Rev. GEORGE LEFEVRE, for many years one of the most respected of the English clergymen of Paris, died there on Tuesday, after a painful and protracted illness. Mr Lefevre is deeply lamented by all classes, and especially by our poor countrymen, to whom he was never-ceasing supporter and friend. Mr Lefevre had attained to the age of 78.

MR W. J. HAMMOND, the well-known comedian, died in America on the 23rd of last month. The following notice of his death is from a New York paper:—"This popular actor and worthy man died in this city of dysentery on Friday last, in the fiftieth year of his age. Full twenty years of that time he has been known as a comedian of no mean ability in his peculiar line. His provincial career commenced in Liverpool, we believe, where, as early as 1828, he was a great favourite. From Liverpool he went to London, where, notwithstanding the almost unprecedented amount of talent in low comedy that then occupied the stage, his quaint and original personations attracted attention and obtained applause. He became manager of the Strand Theatre, and subsequently of Drury-lane. At the latter house, like most of the leases of that splendid delusion, he was unsuccessful, and became a bankrupt. But his integrity remained unquestioned. A few weeks ago he arrived in this country, and made his appearance at Niblo's Theatre, Astor place, as Tom Lumpkin, in 'She Swoop to Conquer.' He was then taken sick, and gradually became worse until Friday, when he died. Mr Hammond leaves a wife and seven children in England to mourn a kind husband and father, cut off unexpectantly in a distant land. The 'Liverpool Journal' adds:—"Mr Hammond was a native of London, but has principally resided in Liverpool during the last twenty years. It is unnecessary to say he was universally respected, or that he was a most popular comedian. His widow and family, now overwhelmed with affliction, reside in this town."

NEVILLE HOLT, LEICESTERSHIRE.—At the sale of the library at this old mansion, the following scarce works created considerable demand. Lot 207, Shakespeare's Comedies, &c., large copy, 1632, petition.—Lot 207, Shakespeare's Comedies, &c., said to be the highest price was sold to Mr Thorpe for 273 guineas. In 'She Swoop to Conquer' this rare book has fetched; lot 346, Bole of the Psalms, black letter, 1547, 34 guineas, Mr Thorpe; lot 447, Missale Romanum, with twenty illuminated borders and initial letters, 12s. 15s.; lot 451, another Missale, 10l. 10s., both bought by Mr Andrews, of Bristol; lot 468, Manuscript in Latin, relating to the possessions of Monasteries in England, quarto, 100l. (this unique volume, after a lengthened communication between Mr Roild and Mr Thorpe, was knocked down to the latter amidst a round of applause from the assembled bidders); lot 450, two early Missals, 10l. 10s.; to Mr Rodwell; lot 460, two Missals, 11l. Mr Thorpe; lot 461, Hore Beate Virginie Marie, printed on vellum, with thirty-nine illuminations, 46l. to Mr Lilley.