THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN LONDON. Examiner; Oct 1, 1853; 2383; British Periodicals pg. 632

which he charged me to deliver to the soldiers whom he loved so well, and thus I impart them to you. Guard them from dishonour and misrepresentation as you guard d in battle the glorious old colours that received his latest breath!

"'I took up my sword at eleven years of age, and I now sheath it at seventy-two with honour. I have never stained it by a mean or dishonourable action, or by a desire to use it for my own aggrandisement. I have served my country zealously and honestly, but my chief aim was to protect the poor soldier. I may have to reproach myself for some things, but not for my regard for the soldier's welfare. Tell them that, Montagu, who have followed me. Yet even in this I had to check myself lest my bitter, bitter enemies might say I courted popularity. I never courted popularity with the soldiers; I only strove for their rights.'

"I know, sergeant, the reverence and affection with which you will read these words, because you and the soldiers know them to be true; and I see, by the feeling expressions in your beautiful letter to me, that you have a heart to appreciate them. Accept, sergeant, my thanks and good wishes.

"Yours faithfully,

"MONTAGU M'MURDO, Major.

"To Colour-sergeant John A. Casey, late of the 22nd Regiment, Ballynafeigh, Belfast."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN LONDON.

Nine hundred and sixty-nine deaths from all causes were registered in London during the week ending the 24th September. In the corresponding week of ten previous years 1843-52 the average corrected for increase of population is 1,163. The deaths ranged from 808 in 1846, to 1,611 in 1849, at which latter period the mortality was much increased by cholera, then on the decline. The deaths in the present return are therefore less than the average by 194. Cholera was fatal to 29 persons, 15 males and 14 females, an increase of 13 deaths from this disease compared with the previous week. Twelve deaths from cholera occurred on the north (the same number as were recorded in the previous week) and 17 on the south side of the Thames; where the number registered in the former week was only 4. Of the 29 fatal cases of cholera, 16 are described as "Asiatic," an increase of 12 cases so designated, compared with the week preceding. Six children fell victims to this disease under the age of fifteen years, and 23 adults at fifteen years of age and upwards. The deaths registered from cholera in the last six weeks have been 10, 18, 16, 7, 16, and 29. Diarrhœa was fatal to 89 persons, an increase of 11 on the previous return; during the last six weeks the deaths from this disease have been 126, 137, 152, 131, 78, and 89. The present return of deaths from diarrhœa is 12 above the corrected average of the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The births registered in the week were 1,619, or 650 more than the deaths.

The particulars of the 29 deaths by cholera are as follows:

Kensington, sub-district of St John, Paddington, at 15 Elms place, on the 17th September, the widow of a cabinet-maker, aged sixty-two years, "Asiatic cholera (24 hours)." The registrar, Mr C. Holloway, adds: "Her health has been generally very good. Her son states that opposite No. 6 is an open cesspool, from which there is a great stench. This is the second death that has occurred in this house from cholera, and the fourth in this place. Several other persons are lying ill." In St Mary's Hospital, from Nine Elms place, on 17th September, the daughter of a carpenter, aged nine years, "cholera (11 hours)."—Marylebone, sub-district, the Rectory, in the workhouse, from 6 Pritchard's place, on the 19th September, a gardener, aged forty-one years, "disease of the brain, cholera (22 hours)." The registrar, Mr E. Joseph, adds: "This patient had been in the infirmary for six weeks from disease of the brain; on Sunday last he appeared well up to six o'clock p.m., when diarrhœa came on first of a bilious, then of a watery character, followed by vomiting, a succession of fits, urgent cramp, coldness of the surface, with a blue appearance about the extremities. He died twenty-two hours after the first seizure. No other cases have occurred there, and the two cases from York court, already reported, are convalescent."—In the sub-district of All Souls, at the Middlesex Hospital, from 15 Church street, St Giles, on the 19th September, the widow of a painter, aged fifty-two years, "cholera maligna (11 hours)."—Islington, west sub-district, in the London Fever Hospital, from George street, New road, on the 17th September, a female servant, aged seventeen years, "malignant cholera. In hospital forty minutes." The medical attendant reports: "Collapse, skin blue, perfect consciousness, vomiting and purging, pulseless at wrist, was at work the previous day (admitted a free patient)."—Hackney, west sub-district, at 2 Orchard street, Kingsland, on the 21st September, a labourer, aged thirty-eight years, "cholera Asiatica (18 hours); no premonitory symptoms." In the south sub-district, at 15 Goring street, on the 14th September, a commercial traveller, aged fifty-nine years, "cholera Asiatica (62 hours)."—East London, sub-district of Cripplegate, at 17 White street, on the 25th September, the wife of a cordwainer, aged twenty-nine years, "diarrhœa (10 hours), Asiatic cholera (20 hours)."—Stepney, sub-district of Mile-end Old Town, upper part, at 16 Charles street, on the 23rd September, the wife of a mariner, aged forty-five years, "cholera (19 hours)." The registrar, Mr T. Baddeley, observes: "The deceased was the wife of a mariner, who left her for the purpose of joining his ship the night before she was attacked; the informant states that the deceased was of the most intemperate habits, selling every particle of furniture for the purpose of obtaining drink, and when her apartment was entered it presented the most wretched appearance, scarcely an article of furniture being therein."—Whitechapel Church sub-district, in the London Hospital, from the London Docks, on the 20th September, a mariner, aged forty year, "cholera." In the Mile-end New Town sub-district, at 3½ Booth street, on the 18th September, a hawker, aged fifty-seven years, "diarrhœa (2 days), cholera Asiatica (29 hours)."—St George-in-the-East, sub-district of St John, at 1 Salter's alley, on the 19th September, the daughter of a coal-porter, aged nine years, "English cholera (4 days)." The medical officer of this sub-district observes that "this case had been attended by another medical man up to Monday, who informed me the child was very blue about the face when he first saw her. I attended her four hours before death, and the case then presented a strong resemblance of severe cholera. The house at times had very bad smells from a drain in the yard."—St Saviour, Southwark, at 56 Ewer street, 3 deaths are registered from cholera, namely, on the 16th September, the daughter of a labourer, aged three years, "cholera (9 hours)." In the same house, on the 19th September, the son of a labourer, aged seven months, "cholera (9 hours)." And in the same house, on the 20th September, the son of a labourer, aged three years, "cholera (4 days)." The registrar, Mr F. Parr, adds: "This house is situated in one of the worst streets in the district, the houses being old, dilapidated, and dirty, inhabited by labourers and costermongers."—St George, Southwark, Borough road sub-district, at 7 Gun street, Friar street, on the 21st September, the wife of a bricklayer, aged sixty-two years, "diarrhœa (19 hours), Asiatic cholera (15 hours)." The registrar, Mr H. C. Elliott, states: "This death occurred very near the spot to which reference was made in last week's return, and I much fear this case may be regarded as another melancholy instance in which a disregard of the premonitory symptoms is followed by fatal results; the informant stated that the deceased was in good health up to the attack of diarrhœa, which she allowed to go on between seven and nine hours before application was made for medical assistance."—In the Kent road sub-district, at 3 Hayward's place, on the 20th September, the wife of a baker, aged sixty years, "diarrhœa (6 hours), cholera Asiatic (38 hours)." The registrar, Mr F. C. Fitch, adds: "This death occurred in a respectable private house, situated in a healthy locality in the Old Kent road. The deceased (the mother of seven children) had been for some time in a weak state of health."—St Mary, Newington, sub-district of St Peter, Walworth, at 2 Alliance cottages, on the 17th September, the wife of a cellarman, aged twenty-three years, "Asiatic cholera, premonitory diarrhœa (10 days), collapse (12 hours)."—Lambeth, sub-district of Waterloo, 2nd part, at 22 Agnes street, on the 19th September, the wife of an army accoutrement maker, aged thirty years, "Asiatic cholera (14 hours)." Deceased was taken ill between nine and ten o'clock, and cramps came on two hours after. In the sub-district of Lambeth Church, 1st part, at 9 Vauxhall square, on the 23rd September, a labourer, aged forty-four years, "diarrhœa (4 days), cholera (36 hours)." The registrar, Mr T. Greethead, adds: "This man was at work in a bone-yard on the 21st inst. with an attack of diarrhœa, he became worse on the 22nd, when medical aid was called in, and died on the 23rd."—Wandsworth, Battersea sub-district, at the emigrant station, Nine Elms, on the 16th September, the son of a labourer, aged one year, "cholera (72 hours)." In the sub-district of Clapham, at St Ann's House, Old Town, on the 20th September, a female servant, aged fifty years, "cholera (5 days)." The registrar, Mr J. Frost, adds: "St Ann's House is an asylum for female servants out of place; there are between forty and fifty inmates. The deceased was taken ill on the evening of Monday the 12th inst.; she was then attacked with vomiting and purging, but made no mention of her ailment, took no medicine, and sought no relief until the morning of Friday the 16th, when the medical attendant found her in a collapsed stage of cholera. The drainage is not good, the drain being too small, is often stopped, and the soil flows into the cellar of the next house."—Camberwell, sub-district of Peckham, at 6 Elizabeth place, Melon ground, on the 21st September, the widow of a gardener, aged sixty-four years, "cholera Asiatica (16 hours)."—Rotherhithe, at 69 Church street, on the 22nd September, a mariner, aged fifty-six years, "Asiatic cholera (22 hours)."—Greenwich, west sub-district, in the Dreadnought Hospital ship, on the 15th September, an apprentice, aged nineteen years, "Asiatic cholera (3 days); " on the same day a seaman, aged forty-five years, "Asiatic cholera (26 hours);" and on the 23rd September, an apprentice, aged nineteen years, cholera, in a state of collapse when admitted; survived 10 hours. In the sub-district of St Paul's, Deptford, on board the Sophia Marie, in the Thames, on the 23rd September, a Norwegian mariner, aged twenty-five years, "Asiatic cholera (11 hours)." In the Woolwich Arsenal sub-district, at the Royal Ordnance Hospital, on the 21st September, an artilleryman, aged twenty-one years, "cholera (5 days)."

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·826 in. The mean temperature of the week was 54·6 deg., which is slightly below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The greatest difference between the dew point temperature and air temperature was 12·0 deg. on Monday and Tuesday; the least, 0·0 deg., on Sunday and Wednesday. The wind blew from the west and south-west on an average of 89 miles a day. The electric condition of the atmosphere was positive on each day of the week.

FATAL CHOLERA CASES IN LONDON.—Since the Registrar-General's report was made up there have been several fatal cases in different parts of the metropolis, those districts having suffered which have constantly been noted for the prevalence of the most disgraceful filth. Five fatal cases have occurred in Elms lane, Bayswater, a place reported as never free from disease. The lane itself is in a horrid condition, being neither flagged nor paved, and the yards or gardens at the rear of the hovels are filled with every species of filth and rubbish, which, according to the residents, emit a stench in warm weather sufficient to poison and knock them down, in addition to which there are mushroom beds in front of the cottages, the stench from which in rainy weather is overpowering. There is also after heavy rains such a conflux of water in this swamp, that it flows into the cottages, flooding them, and carrying away the furniture. Cases of diarrhœa, hardly distinguishable from cholera, are frequent in Agar Town, a den of filth in the parish of St Pancras. An Irishman died of cholera in Lambeth on Friday, in a crowded locality, and the authorities made an effort to remove the body. The deceased's countrymen, however, became very excited at this threatened interruption of their "wake," and made such resistance as induced the officers, who have not absolute power in the matter, to desist from the attempt to remove the corpse. On Wednesday an inquest was held in the House of Correction, Clerkenwell, on a foreigner named Tourrard, an inmate of the prison, whose death resulted from Asiatic cholera. The deceased, who was undergoing six months' imprisonment for felony, was of a very delicate constitution. On Saturday morning he was seized with cramp, vomiting, purging, and the usual symptoms of cholera, when he was immediately removed to the infirmary, where, notwithstanding the most energetic measures to arrest the disease, he gradually sank and died within seventeen hours of the first attack.——Dr Milroy, Medical Superintending Inspector to the General Board of Health, has recently, in company with Mr R. Hall, the Poor-law Inspector, had interviews with the boards of guardians of several of the metropolitan unions in relation to the adoption of measures for preventing the spread of cholera in their respective districts. On Tuesday these gentlemen attended a meeting of the guardians of Paddington; on Wednesday they met the boards of guardians of St Saviour's, Southwark, and of Greenwich. Cases of cholera have been reported to the General Board of Health during the last few days from the following parts of the metropolis: One death and four attacks have been reported from Lambeth; also one death in St George the Martyr, Southwark; and two fatal cases in St Saviour's, a further case being under treatment at the time of the last report. Diarrhœa of a decidedly choleraic tendency has been recently, and still remains, very prevalent in Stepney parish. Mr P. H. Holland, on behalf of the General Board of Health, had an interview yesterday with the guardians of the St Olave's union, Southwark, with respect to the precautionary measures about to be taken by them in the event of an outbreak of cholera, two cases having already occurred there and proved fatal. The local authorities are exercising the powers with which they are entrusted.

FUTURE CEMETERY FOR THE CITY.

Mr Simon, the City officer of health, has just presented an introductory report to the Improvement Committee of the City Commissioners of Sewers, on the subject of the provision to be made for the future interment of the dead of the City of London. The responsibilities attached by the recent Acts to the Commissioners are considered under three heads—"first, that a sufficient extramural burial-ground shall be provided for that class of persons who have heretofore had right of interment within the City; secondly, that the facilities for transit and conveyance to such burial-place be commensurate with the purpose for which it is established; thirdly, that evil no longer accrues to the health of the City from unnecessary delays of interment, or from the keeping of dead bodies in the dwelling-rooms of the poor."

In considering these responsibilities Mr Simon suggests, in the first instance, that the cemetery which it is proposed to form for the City should be sufficiently large to ensure to every one, however humble, a separate grave, and that an end should thus be put to the disgusting and dangerous practice of throwing a number of bodies into one pit. A sense of the horrible consequences which such a system produces should suffice to ensure its immediate abandonment. The soil, according to Mr Simon, grows so fetid where pit burials are tolerated, that the health of the public, and especially of those persons who are occupied in digging and tending the ground, is endangered. Assuming that each person will be entitled to a separate grave in the City cemetery, and that twenty years will suffice to complete man's return to dust, Mr Simon calculates that fifty-four acres would suffice for the 64,000 burials which, according to the present rate of interments within the City, would take place during that period. In order, however, to provide "such quantities of ground as may be desired in freehold, either for the purposes of family interment, generation after generation, or for the fiction of perpetual tenure by some single occupant," and to allow for the suitable adornment with trees and shrubs of the resting place of the dead, he proposes that a hundred acres should be purchased.

Respecting the choice of a site, Mr Simon recommends that it should be at the distance of at least six miles from the City, but unless great facilities were afforded for the rapid and economic transport of the whole funeral *cortège* to the place of burial, it is obvious that the already heavy expenses attendant upon such occasions would be greatly augmented. And, as two-thirds of those who are yearly buried within the civic boundaries are artisans and paupers, the increased cost would fall seriously upon classes the least able to bear the burden. To mitigate this evil as much as possible, he advises that the cemetery be established on a spot accessible by railway, and that arrangements be entered into with the railway company for carrying the coffin and the mourners by daily trains specially devoted to the purpose,

The third topic of the report, the removal of the dead to a distance from the dwellings of the living, is undoubtedly an important gain to the cause of sanitary reform; but one other and most important step still remains to be taken before its success can be said to be complete. The practice of keeping dead bodies unburied for at least a week is most pernicious, and should be discontinued. By the rich, the inconvenience is not felt, because leaden coffins and spacious chambers separate the corpse from the surviving inhabitants of the house. But when death visits the single room of the labouring man, a wretchedly constructed wooden box is all that, to borrow the language of Mr Simon, divides the decomposition of the dead from the respiration of the living. After a short time, every sense receives a warning of the deadly influences which begin to pour out from the terrible receptacle, and calls loudly for its removal. But prejudice is stronger than any sense, and the putrefying corpse is resolutely preserved in the family circle, notwithstanding the fever and sickness which it scatters, until the appointed period has elapsed. Respect for the dead, as well as salutary care for the living, requires that interment should not be delayed beyond three or four days. When it is borne in mind that thirty or forty dead bodies are always lying, within the City alone, in rooms tenanted by living persons, the necessity of taking measures for checking so dangerous a practice will be generally admitted. Mr Simon suggests a compulsory law to decree the period for interment, as in other civilized countries; but he also recommends an additional fee of 5s. if the interment be postponed eighty hours after death.

THE CHOLERA IN THE NORTH.

The following returns of fatal cases have been received since our last publication:—

NEWCASTLE,	September	23.	Cholera,	63;	Diarrhœa,	4.
,,	,,	24	,,	72	,,	6
,,	,,	25	,,	46	,,	1
,,	,,	26	,,	53	,,	3
,,	,,	27	,,	35	,,	2
,,	,,	28	,,	27	,,	1
,,	,,	29	,,	29	,,	5

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhœa in Newcastle during the present outbreak has been 1,342. In the same period (viz., the first twenty-nine days) during the presence of epidemic cholera there in 1831-2, the number of deaths was 212.

GATESHEAD,	September	23.	Cholera,	16;	Diarrhœa,	2.
,,	,,	24	,,	14	,,	1
,,	,,	25	,,	14	,,	0
,,	,,	26	,,	20	,,	1
,,	,,	27	,,	18	,,	2
,,	,,	28	,,	12	,,	1

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhœa in Gateshead up to the last return has been 367. During the like period (viz., the first twenty-three days) in 1831-2, the deaths amounted to 136.

Several fatal cases have occurred at other towns in the north. Hexham reports four deaths from cholera, Tynemouth four, Rye one, Dunse one, Durham one, South Shields one, North Shields three, Sheffield one, Howden fifteen, and Manchester two, but the character of the last is considered doubtful.

A meeting of the members of the medical profession resident in Newcastle and Gateshead was held on Monday evening, Mr H. E. Potter in the chair, when they resolved "that the arrangements recently adopted in Newcastle and Gateshead for the prevention and treatment of epidemic cholera have been lamentably defective. That the members of the medical profession resident in these towns, not having been consulted as to those arrangements, hereby disclaim all responsibility for them. That copies of these resolutions be sent to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and to the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, to the medical periodicals, and the local newspapers; and that the above-mentioned Ministers of State be respectfully urged to cause a public inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the late excessive mortality in those towns." At the instance of the inspectors of the General Board of Health, the exercise of a power under a local act for "closing houses unfit for human habitation" has been strongly urged, and in several instances orders for closing have been given. Mr Lee, one of the engineering inspectors of the general board, has been for several days engaged in the examination of the worst parts of Newcastle, with the view of advising the local authorities on immediate works, or means of mitigation for rendering parts of it habitable. His reports were adopted by the health committee.

REMEDIES FOR CHOLERA.

Sir,—Having been favoured with the insertion of a letter on the subject of "Malignant Cholera" last year in your excellent paper, and as it is now unhappily among us, may I request you will have the goodness to repeat the substance of that communication, wherein I stated I had found in my practice in the former visitations of this scourge, emetics of mustard, or ipecacuanha, of essential service in the primary stages, followed by doses of calomel and opium, and of castor or olive oil, mixed with hot milk and given cold. But when the disease was more advanced, and the urinary secretion became suppressed (as it generally was), I found most beneficial effects from frequent turpentine enemata combined with laudanum, assisted by warm fomentations and frictions with that powerful stimulant, adding in the latter stages "ammonia" in large doses, in conjunction with nourishment, and other appropriate treatment.

Your constant reader.

M. D.

September 28.

THE POLICY OF AMERICA IN THE EVENT OF WAR.—Among the un-English delusions conjured up to magnify the possible dangers of a war for this country, none appears to have been more extravagant than the supposition that the ocean would "swarm" with Yankee privateers under Russian letters of marque. It is quite possible that privateering vessels might be found under the Russian flag with Yankee owners and Yankee officers; but whether Englishmen or Americans, such ruffians would be treated according to their deserts; and how that is we may describe in the words of an American contemporary, the 'New York Courier and Enquirer,' which draws a precedent from the period of the Mexican war:—

"Our commerce then, whitening, as it does now, every sea, was in precisely the position in which will be the extended commerce of England in the coming struggle. And then, as now, destruction was threatened to the commerce of the commercial Power engaged in war with a nation without commerce. But our government, our press, and our whole people caused it to be understood that the privateer captured and found to be manned by other than Mexicans, would be proclaimed a pirate, and her crew treated accordingly! Mexico blustered; but the people of all nations respected our declarations, and not a vessel was found preying upon our commerce under the fiction of letters of marque granted by Mexico. And, in like manner, if England becomes involved in war with Russia—as she certainly will unless the Czar recedes from his position—the American who is found on board a Russian privateer will be hung at the yard-arm by his captor, with the full approval of every just-minded American. Our government will give no countenance to a course of proceedings which, under similar circumstances, it condemned; and the American who should thus act would justly forfeit all claim to the protection of his country, and receive, and richly merit, the fate of a pirate. In our judgment, the same fanaticism which has urged forward the Emperor of Russia to his present position will continue to press him forward to his fate; the same dependence upon Russia and hatred of England which prompted Austria to connect her fate with that of Russia, will prevent her receding; and, if so, England and her allies will very shortly strike a blow which will set all Europe in a blaze, leave Russia without a fleet, and in due time render the Russian and Austrian capitals the home of the combined armies of Western Europe."

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