

ised bodies in the sweat of cholera patients is inadvertently said to have proved the basis of my hypothesis of the "Fungous origin of Cholera," but that hypothesis, purely speculative, was published in February, 1848, and my first microscopic examination was not made till September, 1849. I was not at all aware of Professor Mitchell's speculations till, through his courtesy, I was furnished with a copy of his book on the "Cryptogamic Origin of Fevers," published early in 1849; nor have I ever seen the speculations of Henle or others, said to bear a resemblance to mine. If I cannot claim priority, I can honestly claim originality for my views.

I remain, Mr. Editor,

Your faithful servant,

CHARLES COWDELL, M.B.,

Physician to the Dorset County Hospital.

Dorchester, Oct. 6, 1849.

CREOSOTE EMPLOYED TO REMOVE THE TASTE OF COD-LIVER OIL.

To the Editor of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SIR,—Allow me through your columns to draw attention to what I have found a valuable therapeutical combination in the administration of cod-liver oil, which is at present attracting so much notice.

In a large number of cases of consumption in which I have used it during the last six months, I have found considerable difficulty in obviating the sickness which in many cases follows its administration. After trying in vain the essential oils, &c., I at last prescribed one drop of creosote in each dose of half an ounce of this oil; they mingle intimately, and I have much satisfaction in stating that it has succeeded in every instance (with one exception) in preventing even any nausea being felt by my patients, who liken the taste to that of red-herrings.

Allow me to add that I hope to send to Dr. Ranking a report of all my cases, so soon as a sufficient time has elapsed to render such available for any useful purpose.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN BARCLAY, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Leicester, Sept. 28, 1849,

Medical Intelligence.

HOMŒOPATHY AND CHOLERA.

We have long been aware that our infinitesimal friends were in the habit of giving allopathic doses under the guise of homœopathic globules, but we did not think they were so heroic in their practice as appears from the following extract:—

Since the appearance of cholera in this city, (New York) our homœopathic friends have laudably endeavoured to do their part in enlightening the community in regard to its prevention and cure. Hence we have had through the daily papers, various private and official

documents on the subject. We have for some time been aware, that in this country at least, true homœopathy no longer existed except in name; but we were not quite prepared for so frank an acknowledgement of the fact as has been made in the documents referred to. Thus we are told in the communication from the committee appointed by the "Homœopathic Physicians' Society of New York," that the proper remedies for cholera are *Cuprum Metallicum* or *Veratrum* in the first stage, and if the patient becomes bad the *Spirits of Camphor* must be resorted to. Yes, the veritable "*Spirits of Camphor*," not the 30th dilution, nor the 61st trituration, but *spirits* of camphor, and that in doses of three drops repeated every few minutes if the symptoms are urgent. The committee making this report is composed of six or eight of the most prominent homœopaths of this city. Their names may be found in the daily New York *Tribune* for the 5th instant. Notwithstanding the boasted certainty and specific nature of homœopathic remedies, there seems still to be some differences of opinion in regard to the true homœopathic remedy for the cholera. Hence, in the *Tribune* for June 8th, we find a communication from Charles J. Hempel, who, though a member of the New York Homœopathic Physicians' Society, yet takes the liberty to differ from the report of the said committee. He regards the cuprum, the veratrum, and the camphor, only as palliatives, while the aconitum napellus furnishes the only true cholera specific. The following are his directions for its use, viz.:—

"As soon as the diarrhoea sets in, with or without cramps in the stomach and bowels, with or without vomiting, coldness of the extremities, &c., dissolve five drops of the *Tincture of Aconite* in ten tablespoonfuls of clear croton water, and take two teaspoonfuls every half-hour, until an improvement sets in; then continue every two hours until you feel entirely well. Eat very little, and only light food, gruels, weak tea and toast, &c.

"If the diarrhoea should be very bad, attended with or without cramps in the bowels, spasms in the extremities, vomiting, or if the paroxysms should set in immediately with great force, dissolve ten drops of the tincture of Aconite in ten tablespoonfuls of water, and give the patient two teaspoonfuls every five minutes until the pulse improves, the extremities become warm, and a moisture is perceived on the skin; then continue every twenty minutes until the improvement is strikingly manifest, and finally continue every two hours until the patient is entirely recovered."

There it is, real, genuine, *Tincture of Aconite*, in doses, amounting to nearly one drop every five minutes, or ten drops every hour. There is no *dilution*, no *trituration* about it; for he tells us that he uses the *tincture* prepared after Pereira's formula. And in regard to the dose, it should certainly satisfy any allopath in the country. Pereira himself directs only *five drops three times a day*.

If we had been desirous of proposing a plan of treatment diametrically opposed to the so-called principles of homœopathy in every particular, we could not have accomplished our object better than by adopting the course here recommended by the first homœopaths in this city. Is there the remotest possible *similarity* between the symptoms induced by camphor, and those

of cholera? Is there even an *approximation*, between three drop doses of Spirits of Camphor, or one drop doses of Tincture of Aconite, *every five minutes*, and the smelling, or even taking of a *pellet* of the 30th dilution of either? Alas! for the doctrines of *attenuation* and *Similia Similibus*. Well may our friend Kirby, of the *American Journal of Homœopathy*, exclaim that, a mongrel in medicine, of all men is the most inconsistent."

BENEVOLENT FUND.

We have much pleasure in recording a donation of £5. 5s. to the Benevolent Fund, from Dr. Jeaffreson, of Finsbury Square, London, through the hands of Dr. Kirkman, of Melton, President-Elect of the Suffolk Branch.

SALE OF POISONS.

The Pharmaceutical Society were last Thursday evening engaged on the consideration of measures which ought to be taken by the Legislature to prevent the wilful and accidental poisoning, especially by arsenic, now so deplorably frequent. Dr. Tunstall, of Bath, and Dr. Sibson, were present, as representatives of a committee appointed by the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association to confer with the Pharmaceutical Society on the subject. It was proposed, and we presume will be determined, that a joint committee from the two bodies will be appointed to take the matter in hand.

APPOINTMENTS.

BATH GENERAL HOSPITAL.—The vacancy in the office of Physician to the Bath General Hospital, occasioned by the decease of Dr. Tarleton, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Lindoe, one of the Physicians to the Eastern Dispensary, of Bath.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has been pleased to appoint Edwin Saunders, Esq., of George Street, Hanover Square, to be Surgeon-Dentist in Ordinary, in the room of Mr. Nasmyth, deceased.

Dr. Benjamin Alcock has been appointed Professor of Anatomy in Queen's College, Cork, *vice* Dr. Carte, who has retired, in consequence of ill-health.

THE BRISTOL MICROSCOPICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN CHOLERA.

We have great pleasure in announcing that we hope, in the next number of this Journal, to publish the report of the Committee appointed by the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society to investigate the subject of cholera, with the aid of the microscope. In this report the whole of the recent observations of Messrs. Brittan and Swayne, with those of Dr. Budd, will be embodied.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, October 5th, 1849 :—John Straw Armstrong, Belfast ; William

Cowen, Stokestown, co. Roscommon ; Henry Tregelles Fox, Dunmow, Essex ; George John Hennell, Tamworth ; Richard Skinner Henning, East Brent, Somersetshire ; Charles Nathaniel M'Caull, Dublin ; John King Maconchy, Dublin ; James Denholm Pridie, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham ; William Henry Tinney, Ottery St. Mary, Devon ; John Horseley White, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire ; Henry Merrill Williamson, Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire.

PRIZES.

The Jacksonian Prize subject for the year 1850, annually awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons, is "Neuralgia ; its various Forms, Pathology, and Treatment." The amount of the prize is twenty guineas. The subject of the Triennial Prize of fifty guineas is, "The Functions of the several Parts of the Large Intestines in Animals of the Class Mammalia."

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, September 27th, 1849 :—Edmund Carver, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire ; Edward Emra Earle, Bristol ; John Warren Edger, Kirkby Stephen ; George Gibson, Birtley, near Gateshead ; George Wm. New ; Thos. John Sayer, Kenninghall.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, October 4th, 1849 :—John Anderson, London ; Robt. Hamilton, Ipswich ; George Paton, Wetherby ; Joseph Skelding, Bridgnorth ; Clement Madely Smith, Horncastle ; William Robert Stewart, London.

OBITUARY.

September 29th, at Eastbourne, Sussex, Dr. Allen Williams, aged 32.

October 3rd, at his house, No. 5, Carlton Terrace, Brixton, Surrey, after a very short illness, James Crawford Ferrier, Esq., M.D., in his 41st year. The deceased gentlemen was a member of the Association.

October 6th, at Brighton, John Taylor Warren, Esq., Inspector of Military Hospitals, much esteemed and lamented, aged 78.

At the residence of Mr. Edge, surgeon, Salford, after seven hours' illness, John Williams, Esq., M.R.C.S. and L.A.S.

ERRATA.

At page 538, col. 1, line 18, for "deglution" read "deglutition."

At page 538, col. 2, line 23, for "an immense coagulum of fluid blood" read "an immense coagulum of florid blood."

At page 479, col. 1, line 14 from the bottom, for "chops" read "slops."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Denton, Mr. B. Travers, jun., Dr. Mackness, Mr. Bird, Mr. Markwick, and Dr. Norris.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to J. H. Walsh, Esq., Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels and books for review may be addressed to the care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.