

# ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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NEW SERIES.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

Three lines and under	-	-	50	2	6
Every additional line	-	-	0	0	6
Half-a-column	-	-	1	10	0
A whole column	-	-	2	15	0
A page	-	-	5	5	0

A line contains ten words.

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## THE PROFESSION AND THE CHOLERA.

AGAIN, and at our doors, has the tocsin of pestilence been sounded. The cry to the battle-field, where death wars against life with more giant energy than on the plains of Waterloo, is borne on the air; and to us as a profession comes the call for manful energy, and a hand to hand death-encounter. Regrets that the time of immunity from disease has been suffered to roll on without energetic action, and with no preparation for its advent, are now all in vain; and the responsibility of inaction must be indeed heavily felt by those august bodies whose pre-eminent duty it should be, as it appears to us, to conserve the public health; in all times of emergency, to give advice and assistance; and when this time has passed, by the advocacy of sound measures of sanitary reform to prevent its recurrence. It cannot cease to be matter of regret that, with the abundant materials placed at their disposal, the London College of Physicians has allowed another epidemic of cholera to invade this country without placing before the profession the lesson taught by the last.

What public authorities have failed to accomplish, it remains for us as individuals energetically, at this crisis, to perform. In silence, unnoticed, and after seeing the praises we have deserved borne away by others who have talked while ours have been the burden and heat of the day, it is still our duty—and we feel proud in knowing how well the duty will be done, in the midst of discouragement, and surrounded by scenes of appalling misery and destitution—to go onward to alleviate, by the kindness of our art and the consolations of our presence, the visitation of pestilence in the haunts of dirt, of famine, and of disease.

But as yet there is time for a note of warning ere the dread visitation is fairly domiciled amongst us; and it behoves us to do all in our power to arouse the lethargic, to enrol the willing, to organize and direct, and, by all means in our power, to afford another to the accumulated evidences that we are, as a profession, of all bodies the most unselfish and humane.

In all towns where there is no Sanitary Committee or Board of Health, the medical men should meet, and publish, with the sanction of the authorities, some such precautionary notice as the following, to be posted in all courts, alleys, and back streets. We select the following

merely as a specimen of the sort of notice which is required. Of course the words may be variously modified, according to circumstances; but the leading points to be impressed on the public are indicated in the subjoined placard.

"PREVENTATIVES AGAINST CHOLERA. Let every kitchen, cellar, and all underground premises, be thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed: and see that no gutter is choked, or any filth, ashes, or stagnant water, is allowed to accumulate in or near any of your premises. Give notice to the inspector at once of any nuisance that you know of anywhere near your house: and help your neighbours thoroughly to cleanse and purify the streets or courts in which you live.

"Cholera does not come on at once; there is first, perhaps for some days, looseness of the bowels, or purging, *without any pain*. But no one must be put off their guard by this, but get an order to the infirmary, or to the union surgeon, or procure some other medical advice, immediately. This will prevent diarrhoea from becoming cholera. Cholera is often brought on by improper food. Sour or unripe fruits and vegetables, especially uncooked, should be avoided.

"All excess must be carefully guarded against. *Dirt and drink* always bring on cholera, and drunkards always suffer most. Be moderate in eating and drinking; avoid exposure to the cold and wet, especially to foggy night air. If your clothes get wet, change them immediately.

"By attention to these simple rules, you will avoid cholera, both in your houses and in the town.

"By order of the Sanitary Committee,

"W. H. MICHAEL, *Chairman.*"

"Swansea, Sept. 21st, 1853."

The medical men should confer with the authorities of the town or district in which they reside, and help and direct them as to the best modes of thoroughly cleansing all courts and alleys, and removing filth and nuisances of every description. They should originate a fund for the relief of destitution and distress; and organize a thorough system of house to house visitation, immediately upon the appearance of cholera, or even the ordinary autumnal diarrhoea. The medical men of a town or district should confer together, and determine such arrangements as would make the labour and toil be equally divided; while, at the same time, boards of guardians, or a public meeting of the inhabitant rate-payers, might pass such resolutions as would secure to the medical attendants a proper and fixed remuneration, say 10s. 6d., for each case of cholera or severe diarrhoea. At the same time, the poor should be informed as to where medicines and appliances could be procured at a moment's notice, and where medical advice might be at once obtained. This might be well accomplished by a central dispensary, where one, two, or three assistants, according to the number of cases, might be kept constantly at work, and where one or more might devote his time to a tabular record of cases, their results, treatment, etc.; for we feel assured that it is at the moment while the disease is rife that facts should be collected, to be reasoned on at leisure.

The isolation of the destitute and dirty from their