

**PARADOX IN THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.**—**SIR:** In the JOURNAL of May 5th, the word "elimination" is used in the curing of cholera. It strikes me, and it may strike others, that giving aperient medicines of any kind, as therein prescribed, would not produce such an act of Nature as would be desirable. It will be admitted that elimination may be normal and abnormal in effect. We cannot say that we can grow wheat, or make an ox fat; but we can use the proper and usual manure and food to effect each object. If disease exists in the wheat or the ox, the one would not grow nor the other get fat, through the exertions of the most attentive farmer; so also in the treatment of cholera by the use of aperients—viz., castor oil, calomel, rhubarb, salts, etc.; or by other means, as opium, brandy, and chalk mixture, which were found wanting on former occasions amongst persons of distinction, whose cases at the first moment of attack were considered hopeless, especially in the late Mr. Key's case, of Guy's Hospital. The proposal of such means seems a paradox to physiological knowledge.

I beg to say that the abnormal state of the blood in cholera, marked by low degree of heat at 77° (see Müller's *Physiology* by Baly, second edition), has again and again been found and suspected to be the seat of disease in cholera; therefore, restoring the blood to its normal condition, seems to be the *only* mode of cure, which was practised by myself in the Barnstaple Union in 1849, where the guardians had full power of knowing the facts, when one hundred and eleven cases were cured, without a single death occurring, under the same (published) treatment, whilst forty or more cases died under others' treatment. Furthermore, the disease is so very weakening, that the abstraction of blood has been found injurious, and the evacuation of other fluids from the system seems also palpably wrong; whereas, in addition to the system, should be sought to make good the loss from excessive evacuations.

Further communication on the subject with you may be desirable, if my views are worthy of notice in your columns.

I am, etc., WILLIAM PARKER, M.R.C.S.

Bath, May 10th, 1866.

**ANIMAL QUININE.**—P. Z. writes: "I was delighted to see the way in which you notice Dr. Bence Jones's speculations on his new fluorescent substance. I had intended to write to you on the subject, and to call your attention to the absurdity of any such hypothesis being based upon such facts as Dr. B. Jones appeared to have made out. The reasoning reminds me very much of the hypothetical views which we are apt to hear very frequently in our admirable societies, and where, besides the accurate and cautious men, there are always two or three who are distinguished for the extraordinary hypotheses which they are always building up."

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. E. B. VISE; Dr. CANNEY; Mr. STONE; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Mr. I. B. BROWN; Dr. PHILIPSON; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. SIEVEKING; Dr. ARMSTRONG; THE SECRETARY OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL; Mr. R. W. ATKINS; Mr. E. P. HARDEY; Mr. SKEEY; Mr. HENRY LOWNDES; Dr. D. MACKINDER; Mr. C. HEATH; Mr. THOMAS HEWLETT; Dr. JOHNSON; Mr. F. CLOWES; Mr. THURSFIELD; Mr. C. H. MOORE; Mr. STEELE; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. BOWLES; Dr. THOMAS SKINNER; Dr. SHAPTER; Dr. LUDLOW; Dr. DAVEY; Dr. ROBERT FOWLER; Mr. C. STEELE; Mr. R. W. DUNN; Dr. A. RANSOME; Dr. BARCLAY; Dr. J. H. BENNETT; and Dr. H. GREENHOW.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. Asiatic Cholera. By F. A. Burrell, M.D. New York: 1866.
2. Thermometric Observations on Fever. By Thomas W. Grimshaw, A.B., M.B. Dublin: 1866.
3. The Mercurial and Non-mercurial Treatment of Syphilis. By R. W. Dunn, London: 1866.
4. Sisterhoods in Asylums. By W. A. F. Browne, F.R.C.S.E., etc. London: 1866.
5. A Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Medicine. By Austin Flint, M.D. Philadelphia: 1866.
6. Sussex Lunatic Asylum, Haywards Heath. Seventh Annual Report. Lewes: 1866.
7. A Guide to the Practical Study of Diseases of the Eye. By J. Dixon, F.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: 1866.
8. Observations on the Arrested Twin Development of Jean Battista Dos Santos. By P. D. Handyside, M.D. Edinburgh and London: 1866.
9. Lectures on Mental Diseases. By W. H. O. Sankey, M.D. London: 1866.
10. On the Safe Abolition of Pain in Labour and Surgical Operations, by Anesthesia with Mixed Vapours. By Robert Ellis, London: 1866.
11. A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Testis. By T. B. Curling, F.R.S. Third Edition. London: 1866.
12. A Lecture on Posterior Staphyloma. By J. F. Streatfeild, F.R.C.S. London: 1866.
13. Surgical Appliances and Minor Operative Surgery. By Thomas Annandale. Edinburgh: 1866.
14. Ophthalmic Surgery. By J. Z. Laurence, F.R.C.S., and R. C. Moon. London: 1866.

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