

or Artificial Pupil Operation when the other Eye is healthy," which had appeared in the *Medical Times and Gazette* for September 12th. He said the propriety or non-propriety of operating in cases of single cataract was a point in practice to which he (Mr. Solomon) had attempted on several occasions to draw the attention of the profession by the publication of cases and observations in the *JOURNAL* of the Association. In the spring of this year, and when quite unacquainted with the labours of Gräfe, he had embodied in a short paper his opinions on this important subject. And it was certainly a great satisfaction to him to find that those opinions, which were derived principally from a clinical study of simple cataract operations, coincided to a very great extent with the results of Dr. von Gräfe's experience, which extended over fifty cases. If it were quite agreeable to the meeting, in the absence of Mr. Houghton, who was unavoidably detained at Dudley, and consequently unable to bring a singular case of compound fracture of the jaw before the Branch, he should be happy to read the manuscript on cataract to which he had made allusion.

[This paper will be published in the *JOURNAL*.]

Dr. FLETCHER believed the operation of solution to be applicable to cases of hard cataract. When in practice as a surgeon at Shiffnal, he extracted a hard cataract from a patient of 67 years of age, who was subject to an annual attack of gout. The operation was performed a month after the cessation of one of the attacks. Nevertheless, gout in the feet, inflammation of the globe, and afterwards erysipelas of the head and face, followed. The pupil closed. To a proposal that an artificial pupil should be made, the patient gave an unqualified refusal. But the fellow eye, which had become nearly blind from opacity of its lens, he freely offered for anything to be done to it that Dr. Fletcher might esteem desirable. The operation of solution was performed; but little inflammation followed; and good vision was obtained. The cataract was hard.

Mr. SOLOMON was not in the habit of selecting the operation of absorption when the lens was of hard consistence (the senile cataract of continental authors), unless the condition of the tissues of the globe was such as to contraindicate extraction through a half-section of the cornea.

place with his father, on October 7th, on their return from a long walk. He lagged behind, which attracted his father's attention, who looked back, and saw the boy drinking at the pump above alluded to. The boy was still quite well on the evening of the following day, but at five o'clock in the morning of the 9th, he was seized "with diarrhoea, vomiting, great prostration, darkness of surface, thirst, loss of voice," and he died in twenty hours. This case resembles two cases which occurred at West End, near Hampstead, in persons who drank water which was conveyed in a bottle from the pump in Broad Street, Golden Square, in 1854. In such cases there can be no doubt that the very matter which produced the attack was swallowed in the water; and they may well lead to an admission like that made in the *JOURNAL* of to-day, "that cholera evacuations may be conveyed from one person to another by means of water, and thus spread the disease, under certain circumstances." But this is to let in the small end of the wedge; and when once it is admitted, without pushing it to the Feejee Islands, it is difficult to prevent its going as far as circumstances require and permit. In the inquiry into the effect of water supply in cholera in the south districts of London, which I alluded to in a recent paper, I found that in the early part of the epidemic of 1854, nearly all the cases of cholera occurred amongst persons having the impure water of the Southwark and Vauxhall Company. But if like causes act in the same manner when they produce like effects, on comparing the action of the polluted pump-wells with that of the Company's water, we must conclude that, in the latter case, the cholera evacuations passed first down the sewers, then up the Thames to Battersea, and afterwards through the water-pipes to the distance often of several miles. This, however, is a route quite as long and as circuitous as from a ship at Horsleydown to the pump-well at Abbey Row; and for my own part, if it is acknowledged that the morbid matter of cholera can be mixed with the water of a pump-well, and remain for even a few hours without being destroyed, I see no difficulty in its passing a few miles with the tide, which moves in the river almost as fast as a person walks.

There may have been other cases of cholera in the shipping in the Thames, from the Elbe and the Baltic, besides the one registered at Horsleydown, but if there were not, it is unnecessary to suppose that the quantity of cholera poison was so limited that it all required to go up the Lea and the tidal ditch to Abbey Row; or, on the other hand, that it was so plentiful as to be distributed in every paulful of water in the Thames; something between these extremes is what the circumstances of the recent outbreak and former epidemics suggest. I am ready to admit that the greater part of any impurity emptied into the Thames might go straight up and down with the tide, and reach in a few days the salt water, which nobody can drink; but it is a fact that a part of the water of the Thames does flow up the Lea, and a part of this also up the tidal ditch to Abbey Row, carrying with it more or less of every kind of impurity which enters the Thames.

In an inquiry which the Rev. H. Whitehead made, in continuation of that which I commenced, respecting the water of the pump near Golden Square, he was led to conclude that, at one period, hardly anyone drank of the water without being attacked with cholera. The evacuations of one patient in that instance appeared to occasion above 600 fatal attacks within the space of a very few days. When the cholera evacuations enter a large river like the Thames, the result, as might be expected, is different. In the autumn of 1848, the first case imported was followed, in a few days, by several cases at different parts of the river's banks, amongst the population using water obtained directly from the river; and these cases were followed by others more numerous, chiefly amongst the population supplied with water obtained from the Thames at Battersea and Chelsea; and the fresh cases again supplied the morbid poison for a large number, and so the epidemic went on increasing. The like events followed in 1853, but in the present year, when few persons use water which is in any way connected with the tidal part of the river, the first imported case of cholera has been followed by other cases at one point only, and the disease has not spread further.

Since the last epidemic of cholera, the water supply of a great part of London has been entirely altered. At present no water company draws its supply from any part of the Thames which is within reach of pollution by the shipping, or the sewers of the town. The water supply of London is now different from its condition at any former period, and that has happened now which has not occurred before in the history of cholera in this metropolis. On every former occasion, when cholera prevailed in Hamburgh and other ports in the north

Editor's Letter Box.

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA AT WEST HAM.

LETTER FROM JOHN SNOW, M.D.

SIR,—I have no complaint to make of the criticism of my views on the above subject, which is contained in a leading article of the *JOURNAL* of Oct. 31st; but I shall be glad to be allowed to make a few remarks by way of defending my opinions, and to allude to a case in connection with the outbreak that I was not acquainted with when speaking at the Medical Society of London.

In the first instance, I should like to say that I have not clipped or shaped this outbreak of cholera to fit the bed I had made for it; on the contrary, it came and shaped itself exactly to the conclusions which I had drawn from the observance of previous epidemics. This outbreak at Abbey Row, West Ham, took place in a community supplied by a particular pump-well; the water of this well was distinctly polluted by a sewer, which receives the overflow from the cesspools of this community; the tide flows up this sewer from the Lea, and up the Lea from the Thames. Moreover, there had been one case known and registered of death from cholera on board a ship in the Thames from a port where the cholera was very prevalent, a few days before this outbreak at West Ham. In treating of the early cases of cholera in 1848, occurring by the side of the Thames, and near St. Bride's pump, a few days after the death of a seaman from Hamburgh, I gave an explanation, some years ago, precisely like that which I now offer of the outbreak at West Ham. (See *London Medical Gazette*, vol. xlvii, p. 1051.)

The case connected with this outbreak, of which I was not previously aware, is one investigated by Dr. Ansell. At the time of the cases at West Ham, just beyond the borders of the metropolis, there happened in the whole of London just one case, which, by suddenly attacking a person in good health, and proving rapidly fatal, showed itself to be of the true Asiatic type. This case was that of a boy, aged 14, living at Bromley, about two miles from Abbey Row; he passed this

of Europe, it extended to London, and the first cases were followed by others, and these again by more, till the disease was epidemic. This last summer and autumn cholera has again prevailed in the ports in the Baltic and the Elbe; it has again extended to London, and one well marked imported case has been followed by a group of cases on the borders of London, so well marked as to leave no doubt of their nature; but here the disease has left off for a period of already eighteen days, and, whatever may follow, this is a halt which occurred on no former occasion.

So far from its being my opinion that the morbid matter of cholera is indestructible, I have from the first considered that it is very perishable, and that when mixed with water it cannot preserve its powers more than a few days; this being one cause why an epidemic often dies out so quickly. Dr. Wm. Budd advocated the same view in his able articles in the *ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL* in 1854 and 1855. I believe that the cholera poison, destructive as it is in certain circumstances to the human species, has many enemies, is easily destroyed, and, what is of more importance, is still more easily avoided.

I regret that I cannot enter fully into my views regarding the pathology and history of cholera in the short space to which it is necessary to confine this article; and I beg the reader to remember that, although I find it necessary to write most on that part of the subject which concerns the communication of cholera through the medium of water, its propagation by swallowing the morbid poison without this medium, plays a very important part in its progress, more especially in the crowded habitations of the poor.

I am, etc.

JOHN SNOW, M.D.

Sackville Street, October 31st, 1857.

CAUSTIC HOLDERS.

LETTER FROM W. B. KESTEVEN, Esq.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, J. A. B., in the *JOURNAL* for October 24th, I may state that a very convenient form of caustic holder, constructed after the manner of the "ever-pointed" pencil, has, for several years past, been manufactured by Mr. Nash, of Coppice Row, Clerkenwell (late Butler and Co.) I have had one in use for years.

A notice of this caustic holder was published in the late *London Medical Gazette*, nevertheless it has not become as widely known as it merits.

I am, etc.

W. B. KESTEVEN.

Upper Holloway, October 27th, 1857.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

BIRTHS.

- ELIN. On October 27th, at Hertford, the wife of George Elin, M.D., of a daughter.
- FOWLER. On October 30th, at 145, Bishopsgate Street Without, the wife of Robert Fowler, M.D., of a son.
- GODDEN. On October 25th, the wife of *Joseph Godden, Esq., Surgeon, of Sudley House, Cloughton Firs, Birkenhead, of a son.
- HARE. On October 20th, at Cawood, Yorkshire, the wife of Henry Christian Hare, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- THANE. On October 31st, at 9, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, the wife of George D. Thane, M.D., of a son.
- THUDICHUM. On November 1st, at 9, Woburn Place, the wife of *J. L. W. Thudichum, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- ADAMS—WEDGWOOD. ADAMS, Richard, Esq., Cornwall County Asylum, to Fanny, only daughter of the late Philip Egerton Wedgwood, Esq., of Burslem, at Liverpool, on October 8th.
- CHAMBERS—WOOLLEY. CHAMBERS, the Rev. Walter, to Susan Elizabeth, daughter of George Woolley, M.D., late of Brompton, at Sarawak, on August 17th.

HASSALL—GODDARD. *HASSALL, Richard, M.D., of Richmond, to Alicia, fourth daughter of Charles Goddard, D.D., late Archdeacon and Subdean of Lincoln, at Richmond, on November 3rd.

LEWISON—BLACK. LEWISON, P. Emil, M.D., to Elizabeth Easter, widow of Alexander Black, Esq., late 14th Light Dragoons, at Lowestoft, on October 29th.

LYWOOD—EMMOTT. LYWOOD, John, Esq., of Wyke, Hants, to Mary Ann Frances, widow of the late Edward Emmott, M.D., at Charlton, Kent, on October 29th.

SCHULHOF—VAIZEY. SCHULHOF, Maurice, M.D., of Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, to Frances Ellen, only daughter of George de Horne Vaizey, Esq., of Halstead, Essex, on October 29th.

THOMPSON—ABBOTT. THOMPSON, Theophilus Wathen, Esq., eldest son of Theophilus Thompson, M.D., F.R.S., of Bedford Square, to Maria, eldest daughter of W. Abbott, Esq., of Bath, on October 21st.

WHEELER—HELISHAM. WHEELER, Edward, Esq., of the Rocks, Kilkenny, to Josephine, youngest daughter of A. Helsham, M.D., of Park Place, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on October 29th.

WILLIAMS—WOODS. WILLIAMS, David William, Esq., Surgeon, to Mary Ann Hawkins, only daughter of George Woods, Esq., formerly of Gibraltar, and late of Chatham, at Llandysilio, Anglesey, on November 3rd.

WYMAN—HANDY. *WYMAN, George, Esq., Surgeon, of Alcester, to Mary Charlotte, second daughter of the late Henry Handy, Esq., of Bradley, Feckenham, Worcestershire, at Alcester, on October 15th.

DEATHS.

BIRKETT. On October 30th, at 59, Green Street, Grosvenor Square, Adela, infant daughter of *John Birkett, Esq., Surgeon.

CORMACK. On October 30th, of typhoid fever, at 27, Amptill Square, N.W., Daniel Hugh, aged 4 years and 4 months, eleventh and youngest child of *John Rose Cormack, M.D., F.R.S. Edin.

EVANS. On August 10th, at Vichy, France, Eliza, wife of G. F. D. Evans, M.D., of Bedford.

MANT, Thomas, M.D., late of Ipswich, in London, aged 86, on October 25th.

RIDLEY, Porter, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Madras Army, at Jubulpore, on September 17th.

YONGE. On October 23rd, at the Royal Medical Benevolent College, aged 80, Elizabeth Sarah, widow of the late James Yonge, M.D.

YOUNG. On October 25th, at Bognor, Ann, widow of the late James Young, Esq., Surgeon, Aylesbury.

APPOINTMENTS.

BYRNE, J. A., M.D., elected Assistant Resident Physician to the Lying-in Hospital, Rutland Square, Dublin.

LYONS, R. D., M.D., elected Physician to the Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin, in the room of Dr. Martin, resigned.

M'DONNELL, A., M.D., elected Surgeon to the Jervis Street Hospital, in the room of Dr. Harrison, resigned.

SAWYER, James R., M.D., appointed Professor of Midwifery to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in the room of Dr. Beatty, resigned.

PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, October 15th, 1857 :—

ALCOCK, John, Cobridge, Stafford
BIDDLE, Henry Cooper, Upper Edmonton
DAVIS, William Farquhar, Army
MUSKETT, Joseph James, Holl, Norfolk
RADLEY, William Hepworth, Doncaster
RAYNER, Thomas, Birstall, near Leeds

Thursday, October 22nd :—

CARHER, Alfred, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica
SWEETING, Thomas, Wakefield
WOODFORDE, John Howard

Thursday, November 29th :—

BUSS, Henry
EARLE, John, Ripon
HUGHES, Thomas, Holyhead
LANDER, James, Glasgow
TENCH, Edward Beavan, Hereford