

never extend so far as to infect persons in an adjoining street, nor an adjoining house; nor in an adjoining room of the same house, nor even in the patient's own chamber, if large, airy, and kept clean.

III. Not more than one person in 23 is naturally exempted from typhus: for when 138 men, women and children, were exposed fully to the typhus contagion, for days and nights together, in small, close, and dirty rooms, all of them except eight, were infected with this fever.

IV. The miasms of Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Typhus Fever, and other contagions, do not render clothes &c. exposed to them, contagious.

V. Hence, it follows, that the ONLY WAY by which typhus can be conveyed from the patients room, so as to infect others out of it, is in the form of contagious dirt, as dirty clothes, utensils, &c. and consequently that the contagion may be destroyed by washing them clean.

From these laws of contagion observed by nature, he concludes that typhus may be easily, and certainly prevented—1st, by ventilation (in large, airy, and clean rooms;) or 2ndly, by separation (into an hospital, or an adjoining room in the same house, where practicable;) or 3dly, especially by cleanliness, which entirely destroys the poison, wherever it can be completely accomplished.—Dr. Haygarth's letter to Dr. Percival on the Prevention of Infectious Fevers.

On these principles (stated by Dr. Haygarth) the fever wards of the Chester Infirmary were established in 1783, the house of recovery at Manchester in 1796, and since that time, fever hospitals at Liverpool, London, Edinburgh, Dublin, and most of the large towns in Great-Britain and Ireland. On the whole, it is manifest, that typhus might be exterminated from any town or district, by easy and practical regulations. This conclusion, Dr. Haygarth thinks, is not conjectural. It is established on far stronger and more positive evidence than most other kinds of medical knowledge. Ever since 1783, the physicians of Chester have preserved their fellow-citizens from typhus, by requiring the lodgings of the patients, generally strangers, to be completely cleansed on their removal into the fever wards of the Infirmary; and if other places have not been so successful, it is to be attributed to their not cleansing the lodgings which the patient left. Dr. Haygarth's letter to the Physicians of the Fever Hospital in Dublin, printed by the Society for bettering the condition of the Poor in Ireland; and Dr. Thomas's Practice of Physic.

In a pure air, in large and well ventilated apartments, where the dress of the patient is frequently changed, all excrementitious discharges constantly removed, and an attention paid to cleanliness in general, neither typhus under any form, plague, or dysentery are usually contagious, under such circumstances are rarely communicated from one person to another. Dr. Thomas's Practice of Physic.

With respect to these contagions, though we have spoken of them as of a matter floating in the atmosphere, it is proper to observe, that they are never found to act, but when they are to the sources from whence they arise. Dr. Cullen's Practice of Physic.

Is there any point better established in medical history, than that the typhus fever, when treated in spacious, well ventilated, and clean apartments, with personal cleanliness, is not contagious; but that it is rendered contagious by crowding, closeness, and filth. Medical Logic, by Sir Gilbert B'an, Bart. &c.

The contagion of typhus, as has been clearly demonstrated by numerous well-directed experiments, will, from a person actually under the worst form of it, not produce fever at the distance of three yards. Dr. Dawson's Practice of Physic.

If the room be well ventilated, and the person who visits the sick of contagious disease in health and full vigour of mind and body, he may, without incurring risk, approach the patient's bed, and remain near to his person. Dublin Hospital Reporter, vol. IV.

This poison in the source of genuine typhus, such as jail, hospital, and ship fevers. None of these forms of disease can be said to occur epidemically; for the miasm becomes innocuous when diffused in the atmosphere a few feet beyond the apartments in which it is engendered. Dr. Smith on the Etiology &c. of Epidemics.

We know that the range of contagion is very circumscribed, and reaches to but a very small distance from the patient, or the nidus of foul clothes, or utensils in which it may be lodged; and never infects a person in an adjoining street, or house, or room in the same house; nor even, as Dr. Haygarth has observed, in the patient's own chamber, if large, airy and clean: a remark that has since been confirmed by Dr. Baillie

with respect says he 'to the contagious nature of these fevers (typhus) I am convinced that it is in general not considerable. I do not recollect an instance in which a patient in that hospital (St. George's, London) communicated the infection to a patient LYING IN THE NEXT bed. When patients are crowded together, and

the apartments are ill ventilated, I entertain no doubt of this species of fever being capable of being communicated from one individual to another. Dr. Alison in his description of the epidemic fever of Edinburgh, in 1827, likewise particularly mentions, that in the men's ward of the hospital, there was no instance of any patient, admitted on account of other complaints, taking fever in the house, notwithstanding ITS CONTINUED PRESENCE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE WARD. Notwithstanding what happened in the men's ward, this intelligent physician adduces many convincing facts in support of this doctrine, that fever spreads not by contagion in the air, but from contagion communicated by intercourse between the healthy and the sick. Study of Medicine: by Dr. Good, Edited by S. Cooper, vol. II. page 233. Lecture and Observation on Medicine, by Dr. Baillie. Dr. Alison in Edin. Med. and Surg. Journs. No. 93, p. 234.

It is of great importance to know, that typhus contagion does not render clean clothes of any kind contagious; or in other words, does not adhere to, or harbour in them. Dr. Good.

I have dwelt particularly on Typhus fever, for to use the words of Dr. Good "although the miasms of measles or scarlet-fever, small-pox and plague, are also capable of tainting the secretions of the body, none of them appear to do it so completely and universally as that of typhus when in the most malignant state; in which the breath, all the egesta, and all the fluids, are loaded with contagion." Study of Medicine, vol. II, p. 245. Reidlin. Lin. Med. p 402. Eph. Nat. Cur. Dec. Ann. VII, VIII, obs. 193. Hennen's Principles of Military Surgery, p 218: &c.

The contagions of all the eruptive fevers, (viz:—scarlet-fever, measles, small-pox, &c.) seem subject to the same law as typhus; they all probably issue from a specific affection of the living body, and hence all of them are comparatively confined in the range of their action: (Page 19,) and at p 112, he states—"In laying down the general rules of febrile miasm I ventured to state, that contagion generated in the living body does not appear to be very volatile in ANY INSTANCE and soon dissolves in a pure atmosphere. The contagion of small pox seems fully to be governed by this law. When small pox was more frequent than at present, medical practitioners, although passing casually from house to house were rarely, if ever, accused of communicating the disease." Study of medicine Vol. III.

So long ago as 1779 [Dr Haygarth] preserved 37 boys from the scarlet fever in a boarding school at Chester, by confining a patient ill of it to a violent degree in a separate room in the same house. In a boarding school at Bath in 1805, two young ladies had a scarlet fever and a malignant ulcerated sore throat one of them dangerously. The governess visited the patients, and assisted to syringe their throats frequently in the day. After washing her hands, and with other strict attention to perfect cleanliness, so as carefully to avoid conveying any contagious dirt out of the sick chamber, but without changing her garments, she went among 65 of her scholars in the adjoining rooms to hear their lessons and examine their work: not one of these young ladies were infected with the fever. THE TESTIMONY OF SUCH NUMEROUS FACTS PROVES, BEYOND ALL CONTROVERSY, that contagions do not adhere to clothes so as to infect others closely exposed to them. Hence typhus, scarlet fever &c., are ALWAYS caught either by miasms issuing from the patient or by miasms issuing from the contagious poison in a solid or liquid form discharged from the patient; but not by miasms adhering to the clothes &c. It completely confirms the fourth law of contagion mentioned by Dr. Haygarth, which is of very great importance being highly conducive to the simplicity, facility, and certainty of the rules of prevention. If in future a patient ill of typhus fever &c. be permitted to infect the family, where there is a room in the house for the separation of the sick, it will be justly imputed to the want of knowledge or the want of care in the attendants. Dr. Thomas's Practice of Physic: Dr. Haygarth's sketch of a plan to exterminate the small pox.

In deducing the more obvious laws that regulate febrile contagion, I observed, at some length, that whenever originating from the human body itself, this contagion does not seem to be very volatile, and is soon dissolved or decomposed in an atmosphere of pure air: and we have since had occasion to apply the same remark to the contagion of all the preceding eruptive fevers, [viz. measles, scarlet fever, and small pox, &c.] I have now to observe that it applies especially to plague, whose sphere of infection in pure air appears to be more limited than any of the rest; on which account, indeed, it has been held by many who have practised in the field of this disease to be communicable by contact alone." Study of Medicine Vol. III.

As to spasmodic cholera, if it is a contagious disease: there has been no facts adduced, nor have we any reason to suppose that its contagion is governed by other laws than these before mentioned—those who have witnessed

its ravages, have advised no new means for its prevention; nor has any other been adopted, than those for other pestilential disorders.

The experience we have had of the Lazaretto on Middle Island, likewise goes in support of my opinion, for I am not aware, that either men, or disease, has escaped from it. In 1827 the Brig Eleanor arrived here with passengers, and fever; the pilot caught the disease, and died; very few escaped it; not even those in the cabin. They were landed in the lazaretto; none of the guards were affected, although they held more intercourse with the sick than I wished; if they escaped, there could be little danger of those, a quarter of a mile off,—and the highest house to the lazaretto, is nearly that distance.

Many quotations equally cogent might be added; but I trust those are sufficient to show, that the opinion given on the 17th Instant, so far as relates to the communicating of contagion, is fully supported by the most eminent medical men of the past, and present century.—As to the suitability of Middle Island, for enforcing quarantine, I believe there will be little diversity of opinion.—It is not the fear of a small guard that will make a body of men suffer privations, and see death and disease staring them in the face; but the knowledge that, the guard on the slightest alarm can procure, an overwhelming force—the farther you remove them from that assistance, so much less can you depend upon quarantine being enforced,—and if at a distance, the time lost, before the remedies prescribed, can be procured, may be of vital moment to a patient labouring under an acute disease.

I have to apologise for the unavoidable and unexpected length of this Communication.

Yours &c.

Chatham, 20th April, 1832.

ALEX. KEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLEANER.

SIR,—In your last paper I observe a letter from Newcastle signed 'An Inhabitant', evidently intended as an attack upon the Commissioners, or one of the Commissioners of Roads for that parish. Now Sir, I am also an Inhabitant of the town of Newcastle and have no hesitation in saying that the remarks in the Communication alluded to, are quite uncalled for, such as neither the Inhabitants or Commissioners are deserving of, and are such as can only have arisen from the jealous and splenetic mind of the writer, whose miserable and detestable character has rendered him as contemptible as he is officious. This description will identify the individual quite as well in this community as naming him.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Newcastle, April 18, 1832.

VERITAS.

CARD.

S. L. BISHOP, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London, begs to inform the inhabitants of the County of Gloucester, that he intends to practice his profession in that county, and will endeavour to take up his residence at BATHURST as soon as the season opens.

Mr. Bishop trusts that his assiduity in his professional duties will ensure him the support of the public.

N. B. Mr B. intends opening a Drug Establishment at Bathurst.

April 19, 1832.

All persons having any demands against the Subscriber, are requested to render their accounts to himself, within three months from this date, for adjustment; and all persons who are indebted to him, are requested to make immediate settlement.

PHILIP BREMNER.

Chatham, April 24—1832.

The Members of the Chatham TEMPERANCE SOCIETY, as well as all persons who feel desirous of attending, are requested to meet at Mr George Johnston's, on TUESDAY Evening next, 1st May. at 7 o'clock.

JOSEPH SPRAIT, SECRETARY.

Chatham, April 24.

The laying down of the HARBOUR BUOYS will be LET at Auction, on SATURDAY, the 28th instant, in front of the Store of Francis Peabody, Esq. at 12 o'clock.

ALEX. DAVIDSON,
HENRY McCULLUM,
JOHN CLARKE, } COMMISSIONERS.

Miramichi, April 24.

NOTICE—An Examination of the Northumberland Grammar School will be held on Tuesday, the first day of May, at 10 o'clock, A. M.
24th April, 1832.