

passengers, and here were nearly one hundred and fifty of both sexes, huddled together indiscriminately, the old and the young, the robust and the sickly, the adult and the infant.—Meanwhile the sea was running high in the channel, so that the waves repeatedly broke over the steamer. Then it was that, through the negligence of those who were responsible for the lives of the people on board, a measure of momentary convenience was adopted which led to a catastrophe the like of which has only occurred before in the notorious prison of Calcutta. The companion, the only aperture by which the fore-cabin received ventilation, was closed, and over the companion was nailed down a piece of tarpaulin!

This was at about midnight, between Friday and Saturday. The result proved to be only such as common sense would tell every one was inevitable. The dizziness and qualms of sea sickness were very soon forgotten in the unendurable sensations of suffocation. Efforts were made to force a way out of the confinement; they were found to be unavailing. Shouts were raised to attract attention; they were drowned in the roaring noise of the storm. And then, according to the description of the few survivors, ensued a spectacle such as sets the imagination of even the most morbid at defiance. The steamer drove bravely through the tempest, while those who directed her remained wholly unconscious of the frightful conflict for life and death which was then raging in her very entrails.

The trampling and beating sounds within the cabin were rendered inaudible by the throbbing of the pistons, and the shrieks and groans of the sufferers only died away with the gale towards morning. Not until then were the seamen aware of the tragedy which had been enacted under their feet. Out of the one hundred and fifty passengers who had been driven down the companion-ladder a few hours before, seventy two were found to have perished! Men and women, and little children, husbands and wives, sons and mothers, were heaped about the floor of the cabin in disorder, some with their clothes torn from their backs in tatters, some with their hands and faces lacerated, some with their features trodden into a mummy by the iron shod brogues of their fellow sufferers! Here a father locked in the arms of his daughter; there a sister clinging to the corpse of a brother, their countenances black and distorted with the convulsions produced by suffocation.

Captain Johnstone appears at length to have been made aware that he had become a main actor in a scene of the most horrible calamity. But he was uncertain what to do. He put his Steamer into Lough Foyle, but it was twelve hours before he could make up his mind to pass up to the quay at Derry.

We have nothing more to add to this brief but tragic tale, save that the coroner's jury have found Alexander Johnstone, Captain, Richard Hughes, First Mate, and Ninian Crawford, Second Mate, of the Londonderry, guilty of man-slaughter, and have expressed in the strongest terms their abhorrence of the inhuman conduct of the other seamen on board, throughout this unhappy transaction.

[From the Edinburgh Observer, October 18.]

#### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ON THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA.

We understand that instructions to the inhabitants of Edinburgh for the prevention of Cholera, have been prepared by the Local Board of Health, and will soon be issued. These instructions having been laid before the Royal College of Physicians by the President, at a meeting held here on the 12th instant, they were unanimously and cordially approved of by the College. The medical precautions contained in the instructions of the Board, which we have the authority of the Council of the Royal College to publish, as adopted by that body, and which are called for in consequence of many persons having misinterpreted the directions contained in the official announcement of the London Board of Health, are as follows:—

I. To avoid excess in the use of spirits. Experience having shown that it is not uncommon for a fit of intoxication to pass into an attack of Cholera.

II. To observe more than ordinary care in avoiding cold from light clothing or wet; and when the body has been accidentally chilled, to restore warmth by artificial means, especially by the warm footbath.

III. To use as substantial a kind of food as possible; avoiding free indulgence in liquids of all kinds, and the use of uncooked vegetables, unripe, sour, or stone fruit, the poor kinds of small-beer, all tart sorts of malt liquor, ginger-beer, and acid drinks generally.

IV. To shun long fasts, above all when business obliges any one to be much in places where cholera prevails.

V. To attend to the proper regulation of the bowels; and therefore,

1. To check a tendency to looseness of the bowels. It has been everywhere found that many cases of cholera are preceded for a short time by a warning stage of looseness of the bowels; in which stage the disease may be arrested, although it is with difficulty cured when farther advanced. When any one, therefore, is attacked with looseness, although unattended with pain or other inconvenience, he should, if possible, apply for immediate medical advice. And if advice cannot be obtained at once, he ought in the meantime to take a pill composed of one grain of opium, or fifteen drops of morphia-solution or laudanum in a little water; and he should

repeat the dose in an hour, if not relieved. He should also take a tea-spoonful of compound tincture of cardamon, undiluted, or compound tincture of cinnamon, or tincture of ginger, diluted with a table-spoonful of water, or in the want of these, a little warm brandy and water—and avoid at the same time all cold drinks, or much drink of any kind.

N. B.—Half the above doses for young persons about fourteen; and one-fourth for children about five. Opium, laudanum and morphia not to be given to very young children without medical advice.

2. To correct a liability to costiveness. For this purpose, saline purgatives, such as epsom-salt, glauber's-salt, and effervescing powders, and strong purgatives of all kinds, or large doses of any purgatives, should not be used during the prevalence of cholera, unless under medical advice—but only such mild laxatives as castor oil, Gregory's mixture, the lenitive electuary, compound rhubarb pills, colocynth and henbane pills, or any other medicine known by experience to act mildly. And any undue effects accidentally produced by such medicines should be counteracted by opium, laudanum or morphia, as above.

VI. To attend also promptly to attacks of sickness and vomiting which sometimes precede the epidemic, and which, after the stomach has been once cleared out, may be treated by the same remedies as those directed for looseness of the bowels.

At the same meeting, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:—

1. That it is not advisable to remove cholera patients from their own houses, if it be possible to command advantageously the means of treating them there; but that, according to experience in the former epidemic, a large proportion of cases must occur in Edinburgh among the lowest population, inhabiting apartments in which it is impossible to treat the sick for want of proper beds, bedding, fires, and other means of heating the body, besides other necessary medical resources.

2. That on the occasion of the former epidemic, serious injury was in many cases caused in this City by the directions of one of the Boards of Health in London, to avoid the use of laxatives during the prevalence of the epidemic, and rather to encourage a somewhat constipated condition of the bowels—inasmuch as many accustomed to use laxatives, and requiring their occasional or regular use, gave them up, and suffered from the consequences of constipation—the College, seeing no reason why mild laxatives should not be used for the removal of constipation during cholera, and believing that both cholera and other serious intestinal diseases may arise from a neglect of them in many circumstances, unanimously approve of the regulation V. 2, as stated above.

The first of these resolutions is called for in consequence of the condemnation of hospitals, contained in the directions of the London Board of Health, being inapplicable in Edinburgh, where the population chiefly liable to cholera is, in general, absolutely destitute of all the appliances necessary to render medical treatment available. The second has been called for in consequence of many persons here having fallen into the very same error which is stated to have occurred in 1832, although the directions of the London Board of Health are by no means so condemnatory of the use of all laxatives as on that occasion.

The College of Physicians also passed a unanimous resolution strongly approving of the establishment, as in 1832, of Houses of Refuge for the removal of the healthy from localities threatened with a severe visitation of the epidemic. This measure was carried through energetically by the Edinburgh Board of Health during the first epidemic; so that at one period upwards of 700 persons from infected districts were lodged under observation in Houses of Refuge, but allowed to go to their usual places of work. There is no doubt, according to the opinion of the best judges, that the ravages of the disease were in that way greatly circumscribed in various localities in Edinburgh; and that no other measure contributed so much to keep the epidemic within moderate bounds. The utility of such Houses of Refuge must be obvious to all, whether the disease be viewed as originating in infection, or, as seems now far more probable, in a peculiar miasma prevailing with intensity only in limited localities.

**LIBERIA.—Important Intelligence.**—A letter has been received by Elliott Cresson, Esq., of this city, from Gerald Ralston, dated London, November 24th, conveying intelligence of the conclusion of a treaty of Amity and Commerce, on terms of perfect reciprocity, between the Republic of Liberia and the British Government. President Roberts having successfully negotiated the recognition of the Republic and the conclusion of this treaty, was to sail for home on the 2d inst., in a British sloop-of-war specially offered to him.

The most important news, however, contained in the letter, is the announcement that Lord Palmerston, on behalf of Great Britain, had nearly concluded on an arrangement to furnish President Roberts with £2,000 to purchase all the territory lying between the boundaries of Sierra Leone and Liberia, where the slave trade is carried on extensively; the President pledging himself that the slave trade shall be forever abolished from the whole line of coast from the farthest extremity of Liberia (east and south) to the confines of the British Colony of Sierra Leone.—*Phil. Bulletin.*