

THE EVENING NEWS.

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1873.

[CONCLUDED.]

Concerning Cholera.

PRINCIPLES AND DUTIES TO BE TAUGHT.

4. That through cleanliness, domestic and civic; and an abundant supply of pure water are essential means of preventing cholera in any household when the disease is known.

5. That general cleansing, scavenging, and disinfection should be attended to in every city and town because it is under the control of the public health officer.

6. That when it does appear, that house and the exposed premises should be kept constantly disinfected.

7. That in the words of the chief medical officer of Great Britain, "it appears to be characteristic of cholera, not only of the disease in its development and alarming form, but which the epidemic can produce that all matters which the patient discharges from his stomach and bowels are infective; that the patient's power of inflicting infection is very great, and almost, or quite exclusively by those discharges; that they are comparatively non-infective in the moment they are excreted; but after a few hours, when undergoing decomposition, acquire their maximum infective power; and if they be cast away without previous disinfection, they impart their own infectivity quite to the environment with which they mingle in flesh-soiled earth, or its depots and conduits of filth, and to the effluvia which these discharges may contaminate; if the infective material, by leakage or leakage from drums or caskets, or otherwise gets access, even in the smallest quantity, directly or through the medium of liquids other than those of drinking water, it infects the most dangerous manner very large volumes of the water, and the infective influence of the cholera is thus transmitted to whatever bedding, clothing, and like things have been imbued with them, and renders these things, if not disinfected, capable of spreading cholera."

8. Cleaning and purify, skillful disinfection, temperate habits, and wholesome diet, with pure water and fresh air, are the trusted and sure means of health and security in a hundred cases for all classes of people who are exposed to the risk of cholera. The watchword against the destructive enemy should be, to remove the local causes that favor the presence of the disease, and wherever it appears let its germs be quickly stamped out by powerful disinfectants and special cleansing, being the last resort and destruction of the disease, and become entirely submissive to sanitary measures of prevention, and can no longer be controlled and extirpated more easily and expeditiously than any other epidemic disease, believing, therefore, that the people of the United States will wisely apply the suggestions which are now presented, and understand the recommendations committee presented for the purpose of hastening and making sure the most extensive, thorough and speedy control of the disease.

STEPHEN SMITH, M. D., New York.
EDWIN M. SNOW, M. D., Rhode Island.
C. W. WATSON, M. D., Louisiana.
JOHN H. RAY, M. D., Illinois.
WM. CLEMENSON, M. D., Ohio.
CHRISTOPHER C. COX, M. D., D. C.
MOREAU MORRIS, M. D., New Jersey.
JOHN M. WOODWORTH, Sup. U. S. M. H. Hospital.
FRANCIS BACON, M. D., Connecticut.
HENRY HARRISON, M. D., Pennsylvania.
ELIAS HARRIS, M. D., New York.
—Chicago Prod.

The Responsibility of Insane Criminals.

Trials for murder have in a large proportion of cases been converted into trials for the place of insanity, and it has become common to accuse for crime. The cases in which juries convict where the slightest pretense of insanity is set up are very few, and the criminals and their counsellors will often insist that the quick to take advantage of it. The greater the crime and the more direct the proof the greater are the chances of insanity.

To offer such a place of insanity. To offer such a place of insanity in case of a simple street knockdown would provoke derision, but let the assailant kill the victim with knife or gun, and the place of insanity will be deemed to give attention to the murderer if he is ferocious, brutal, or without the excuse of reasonable provocation the chances are all in favor of the defense of the perpetrator on the ground of insanity. Juries—and in some cases, counsellors—proceed on the theory that a person in sound mind cannot commit murder though capable of every other criminal offense, though the aberration of intellect may be but momentary, commencing and ending with the blow of the knife or the pulling of the trigger, it is sufficient to relieve the murderer from responsibility.

The result of this is the increase of the highest class of crime and the indifference of the perpetrators. They have then outside fear of punishment so long as they are sufficiently atrocious. So far has this gone that the soundest thinkers are turning their attention to the best means of remedying a frightful and growing evil.

Dr. William A. Hammond, the well known medical expert in case of insanity, has published a monograph on Criminal Insanity, in which he takes the ground that an insane person ought to be as much responsible for his acts as he should be made accountable.

Furthermore he assumes that the trial of the criminal is not to protect society rather than to punish the criminal, and that the lunatic who is dangerous to the welfare and welfare of society should be placed beyond the ability of doing mischief. The law makes no allowance for ignorance in dealing with criminals, the victim of defective or vicious training being dealt with hardly as the person who offends with full knowledge of the unlawfulness and immorality of the act and extent of the penalty. Dr. Hammond holds that the lunatic should be placed in the same class as the victim of circumstances who was led in poverty and vice.

In support of his assertion that in some degree at least he cites instances where undoubtedly lunatics have committed acts of murder by lunatics and had their own murderous propensities checked or even reversed, twin to the mania in which they were the victims of those murderous acts were treated. The lunatic has power of controlling his actions in a great degree and Dr. Hammond doubts if any lunatic has irretrievable impulse, "although he may have impulses that are almost irresistible."

These views, coming from a man of such wide experience and knowledge, and especially among the criminal insane, will attract attention and will probably provoke much discussion.—Cleveland Herald.

—ADVISER TO CHICAGO OBSERVATOR.—Mr. Wm. C. Wilcox, Boston, Mass., Oct. 25, 1872.

Consumption, Etc.

HABITUAL SUGARIS, OR LIVER DISEASE, AND NEUROSES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, ARE THE DISEASES WHICH ARE MOST COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH CONSUMPTION. THE DISEASES ARE OF VARIOUS KINDS, AND THE TREATMENT IS OF VARIOUS KINDS.

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