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Between the first and second cholera epidemics both the contagionist theory of disease and the belief that it was simply a punishment from God were far less widely voiced, but the miasmatic theory continued to exert its hold on medical opinion right up to the path-breaking experiments by Dr William Budd and Dr John Snow in 1849. Budd, who had done extensive research into the causes of typhus and [124/125] typhoid concluded in 1849 that cholera was "a living organism of a distinct species, which was taken by the act of swallowing it, which multiplied in the intestine by self-propagation," and Snow gave this new theory wide currency in his *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera* (1849). In 1854 Snow was given the opportunity to prove his theories when he dramatically and conclusively traced cholera deaths to houses supplied by the suspect water of the Southwark and Vauxhall water company. When he managed to persuade the local authorities to lock the handle of a pump in Broad Street in Soho (a compact area where over fifty people a day were dying of cholera) the deaths there came to a sudden halt, and although it was not until 1883 that Koch succeeded in isolating the cholera bacillus, Snow's work marked a triumph for the young science of epidemiology.³⁵

35. Sheppard, *London, 1808-1870*, pp. 276-7. For Farr's slow conversion from the miasmatic theory, see J. Eyler, "William Farr on the Cholera: the Sanitarian's Disease Theory and the Statistician's Method," *Journal of the History of Medicine*, pp. 97ff, 107, 119. For the remarkable contrast in cholera deaths between the customers of the Southwark and Vauxhall Company and those of the [373/374] Lambeth Company, which drew its water from the safe reaches above Teddington Lock, see *ibid*, pp. 117-18. Not until 1866 did the water-borne theory prove dominant, *ibid*, p. 119.