powder give the purgative draught: powdered rhubarb, ten grains; castor oil, half an ounce. Mix.

From the age of four years to fourteen: The powder—calomel, two grains; soda, nine grains. Mix. The draught—castor oil, three quarters of an ounce; tincture of rhubarb, two drachms; powdered rhubarb, eight grains. Mix.

From the age of fourteen and upwards: The powder—Calomel, seven grains; soda, fifteen grains to twenty. Mix. The draught—castor oil, and tincture of rhubarb, of each one ounce. Mix.

During the progress of this stage, small doses of simple soda, one scruple; powdered ginger, ten grains; columbo, between meals, the following stomachic powder, mixed in two drachms of soda water should be taken every hour.

Indications in the second stage: To free the stomach and bowels from their morbid contents; to increase the volume of blood, and restore the circulation.

Remedies.—For children up to the age of four years: Common salt, one drachm; carbonate of soda, ten grains; oxymuriate of potash, three grains. Mix.

For persons above the age of fourteen years: Common salt, two drachms; carbonate of soda, one scruple; oxymuriate of potash, seven grains. Mix.

The above powders dissolved in a small quantity of cold water, to be given every quarter of an hour until the excess of purging subsides, and the pulse is clearly perceptible; from which time extend the period between each dose, first to half an hour, and then to one hour, as the pulse and breathing are vigorous. During the progress of this treatment, as much cold water may be taken as the patient desires; the more the better.

The patients are greatly relieved by a hot salt-water bath; from seven to fourteen pounds of common salt, dissolved in a sufficient quantity of water to cover the whole body, and the patient to remain in from ten to twenty minutes, at a degree of temperature from 110° to 120°; if the vapour continues, the bath must be repeated every two hours. The patient must be kept in bed between blankets, with bottles of hot water to the feet and legs; a free current of fresh air should be allowed to pass through the room. Directly over the patient's head, the quantity of water, to be given every quarter of an hour until the excess of the patient, the body being kept as warm as possible.

To render the atmosphere of the room as healthy as possible, curtains, carpets, and all moveable furniture should be taken away.

Solution for injection: Common salt, three drachms; carbonate of soda, half a drachm; oxymuriate of potash, fifteen grains; water, forty-eight ounces. Mix. To be slowly injected into the veins, at a temperature of 100°; from sixteen to nineteen ounces may be injected, from a period of thirty-two to sixty-four hours. The action is continued, and the reaction, the appearance of the urticaria rash. Another peculiar view of the author's, to the effect that sulphured hydrogen gas prevents the spread of cholera, deserves notice.

He shows this by the fact, that in the neighbourhood of an offensively smelling gas-house no cholera occurred, and in Holland, the immunity of which from cholera was remarkable, he shows this by the fact, that in the neighbourhood of an hydrocarbon gas prevents the spread of cholera, deserves notice.

He therefore applies heat to the skin, gives an emetic, an antacid, (thirty drops of liquor potassse,) and brandy, with laudanum and oil of oujeput. He anticipates as the result, on the appearance of the urticaria rash. Another peculiar view of the author's, to the effect that sulphured hydrogen gas prevents the spread of cholera, deserves notice.

He shows this by the fact, that in the neighbourhood of an offensively smelling gas-house no cholera occurred, and in Holland, the immunity of which from cholera was remarkable, the atmosphere abounds in this gas.

There will be ere long, we fear, too many opportunities for the former, in common with many others, to put his theories to the test of practice. We shall willingly announce the result, until then we must be excused from giving our unqualified assent to any views, which, though reasonable, have still to be tested by extended experience.

Medical Societies.

OCTOBER 21, 1848.—J. WEBSTER, M.D., F.R.S., PRESIDENT.

The Society commenced its meetings for the session this evening. The rooms in Savile-row were completely crowded, reminding us of the Society in its most palmy days. About sixty fellows and visitors were present.

The President, on taking the chair, gave an inaugural address on the state of the Society, which was in every way prosperous. In the course of his remarks, he made the following observations with reference to cholera, and the health of London.

Before dismissing the subject of cholera, it must be interesting to the fellows to know, notwithstanding the anxiety now prevalent respecting that malignant disease, that hitherto it has not made much progress in the metropolis; and if its present fatality be compared with other epidemic maladies, we have as yet really not much reason for alarm, as proved by the fact, that during the six weeks ending on Saturday, the 16th of October last year, the number of fatal cases of this disease—pp. 59, 60.
in London was twenty-six; whilst the total number of deaths caused by the same malady throughout the entire metropo-

ci population, during the six weeks ending on Saturday last, the 14th instant, amounted to sixty-seven, being, as yet,

only a little more than double the mortality by cholera during the same number of weeks in the previous year.

Compared with this, it is instructive to mark the different results observed in another very similar epidemic now prevailing in London, with great severity, but which, notwithstanding, does not call forth much remark, or cause anxiety to the extent it deserves. In these tables it is stated, that during the six weeks terminating on Saturday, the 7th October, 1847, already quoted in reference to cholera, 293 individuals died in London from scarlatina; whereas, during the six weeks ending on Saturday last, the 7th of January last, as many as 972 persons have sunk under that viru-

lent complaint; or upwards of quadruple the average mortality by the same disease in the previous five autumns.

Such facts are important; and although the cholera now occasions considerable anxiety, I think such a dangerous malady as scarlatina being, however, a disease of frequent occurrence in this country, and although it annually carries off thousands of individuals, hitherto no boards of health have existed; no quarantine laws, and very few sanitary ordinances, have been put in force by public bodies for preventing the approach of this malady, the scourge of youth, notwithstanding its highly infectious nature. But this is only another illustration of the prevailing disposition, in the minds of many persons, to view whatever is familiar with indifference, whilst anything new or uncommon is sure to attract attention. It will also be instructive to recall to our recollection the recent in-

vasion of the epidemic influenza, which was so fatally pre-


duced, and which, so far as the public health was concerned, was steady persevered in. By these means the functions of the heart and lungs were kept up; internal congestions were prevented, and time thus afforded for the system to overcome the morbific poison. In the stage of re-


traction, the action applicable to typhoid fever was called for. Bloodletting, the author considered, required great dis-


crimination in its use; the abstraction of blood generally was equivalent to the abstraction of life, and never ought to be resorted to except where the patient had been deprived of a very large quantity of its albuminous, serous, and saline con-


tituents.

Mr. Hird objected to the use of large doses of opium in every stage of the disease. Dr. Snow objected to the application of warmth in cases of cholera, and founded his objection to its employment, on the fact, that in cases of asphyxia such application was injurious.
Cholera was not asphyxia, but in some points resembling it, so far as the internal congestion was concerned.

In the two cases of cholera just referred to, two other persons almost in articulo mortis: they were given all recovered. Finally, the cannabis was tried again with tincture in one dose, equal to three grains of the active principle. His limbs and tongue were cold, cyanosis was common, from twelve to fifteen drops, representing about one grain of the remedy reaction took place. Dr. Willemin entered at much length into the pathology of the disease, and of the mode of its treatment in Paris. He regarded the fatal symptom to be suppression of urine. It was essential to arrest the first symptom of diarrhea. In the advanced stages, the administration of cold water, ad libitum, and the application of the remedy to the surface, was the most effectual plan of treatment.

The debate was adjourned.

**Foreign Department.**

*Indian Hemp in Cholera.*

Dr. Willemin, sanitary physician at Cairo, now on sick leave, was attacked by cholera in the city, where he experienced in the discharge of his duty, read, on the 17th Oct., before the Académie de Médecine, a paper on Epidemic Cholera, as lately observed by himself in Egypt, and on the same occasion, on the active principle of the Indian hemp (cannabis) in the treatment of the disease. It was at Boulac, (a small town near Cairo,) whilst fifty-two cholera patients were dying per diem, that Dr. Willemin was consulted. This paper presents a very striking fact in the strange course of this disease. The northern part of the place is composed of large, spacious, and well-ventilated houses, wherein the wealthier part of the community dwell. The southern division is occupied by small, contracted houses, closely huddled together, ill ventilated, and very uncleanly. Strange to say, the northern district has suffered the most by the cholera; and the southern, seemingly so unfavourable circumstances, has had but few cases. These were very similar in every respect at Cairo, where the north-eastern division, rich in numerous plantations, has been severely dealt with; whilst the Jewish quarter, where filth abounds amazingly, was hardly touched by the disease. Dr. Willemin, who pledges himself for this fact, attributes it to the prevalence of northern winds at the time, which wafted the pestilence first on those parts of the city situated towards the north, and which parts then became a sort of bulwark or protection to the southern districts. The division of the cholera in Egypt was preceded by no sporadic cases, or any peculiarity in the public health which could have announced the approach of the disease. Cramps were much less frequent among the Arabs than they are now. Why is this so? Dr. Willemin thinks it is because the lower nervous irritability of the Arabs as compared with Europeans. Conjunctivitis was noticed, in a few cases, as a premonitory symptom, owing, perhaps, to the predisposition to this complaint among the Egyptians. Dr. Willemin, in his post-mortem examinations have shown—high vascularity of the intestinal mucous membrane; black, tarry blood in the congested liver and hepatic vessels; renal engorgement and congestion of the lower part of the lungs. Vomission at the onset of the disease, or better in the premonitory symptoms, had good effects, especially in the unusually hot season when the cholera broke out in Egypt. The thermometer marking from 100°F to 104°F.

Dr. Willemin called the special attention of the Academy to a new remedy which he has had occasion to try, and which, though used in desperate cases, yielded excellent results. This remedy is cannabis, the active principle of the Indian hemp, extracted from the crude drug by a French apothecary at Cairo. A tincture was prepared, in the proportion of one grain to ten drops of alcohol; and from twelve to fifteen drops, representing about one grain and a fifth, to one grain and a fourth, of the active principle, were given to four patients who were already very ill; they all died. Similar doses were then administered to three patients, who were not so far advanced, and all recovered. Finally, the cannabis was tried again with three other persons almost in articulo mortis: they were given stronger doses than those above mentioned, and they all recovered. Dr. Willemin himself: he took as much as thirty drops of the tincture in one dose, equal to three grains of the active principle. His limbs and tongue were cold, cyanosis was complete, and the pulse very weak. A short time after the ingestion of the remedy reaction took place. Dr. Willemin considers that this substance excites the nervous centres, the action of which is almost paralyzed by the disease; and that it is a very useful, and perhaps the only means of preventing death by the abolition of the nervous influence. The author begs the Academy to get the remedy tried further, in order to arrive at a fixed opinion as to its efficacy. Dr. Moreau, surgeon to the asylum near Paris, writes to L'Union Médicale a long letter on the same subject, which he concludes by the following conclusions:—"Indian hemp ought to be extensively tried in cholera—it has been tried with success in two cases of this disease very similar to cholera—the plague; 3rd, (and this is the best of all,) that it has already been proved, by experience, to possess some virtue in cholera cases; 4th, because the use of this remedy, even in large doses, is not fraught with any danger; (Dr. Moreau gives the resinous extract, one drachm of which answers to about four grains of the cannabis) 5th, and lastly, . . . . because we have no other weapon against the disease!"

**ON SMOKING TOBACCO.**

(*Reply to Mr. Horton.*)

To the Editor of *The Lancet.*

Sir,—Mr. Horton, in *The Lancet* of Oct. 21st, condemns the smoking of tobacco, and the denounces the use of it, by the use of a poison, which produces the alarming symptoms he enumerates! I will endeavour shortly to answer him. In the first and most important point, by relieving the mind from that most depressing cause of disease, secondly, whether by neutralizing the miasm which primarily makes health succumb, or by disguising noxious effluvia which would secondarily affect health, through fear, I will not dilate to say further, it is neither fair nor reasonable to argue against the proper use of any agent, because an improper use of the same will produce disease. I have been a smoker well nigh fifteen years, and must plead not guilty, so far as having been subject to the horrifying symptoms enumerated by Mr. Horton. I ardently deny that the smoke of tobacco is unhealthy, so pathetically expressed by Mr. Horton, are of frequent occurrence amongst smokers. To those to whom the grapes are sour, doubtless Mr. Horton will address himself with success, for with such, the horrid qualms and distorted countenance too evidently portray that the soothing weed is not for them. But, in truth, will not every symptom above enumerated be produced by brandy, and even opium, if improperly administered; yet who would on that account interdict them? With all due respect for Dr. Frout and his valuable works, I must decline giving in my adhesion to the justness of his opinion on this subject, unless he merely means the immorality of using tobacco in too much quantity.

Yours obediently,

Dr. Ranking.

October 23, 1848.

A TOBACCO SMOKER.

**DR. RANKING, AND HIS “PAY IN ADVANCE” CIRCULARS.**

To the Editor of *The Lancet.*

Sir,—I thought it customary with all respectable medical authors to entrust the business of selling their works to their publishers. I supposed that the “to be had from the author" fashion, was confined to such worthies as Perry & Co., Brodie & Co., &c. But I was mistaken. I find that Dr. Ranking, after the example of the *Medical Times* ‘pay in advance’ luminaries, solicits, by circulars, the pre-payment of thirteen shillings to himself for his “Abstract" for the forthcoming year; and to every one who thus subscribes forth. He guarantees the free transmission of the work by post on the day of publication. This smacks strongly of the shop; and through their booksellers? None whatever; but, on the contrary, there is the trouble of procuring and forwarding a post-office order, &c. It is deplorable to see physician degrading himself by making such a contemptible exhibition.

I am, Sir, yours &c,

J.J.

Montgomeryshire, Oct. 19, 1848.