

THE BACTERIA IN ASIATIC CHOLERA

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The bacteria in Asiatic cholera by E. Klein

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E. KLEIN

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ASIATIC CHOLERA**



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IN
ASIATIC CHOLERA

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TO
GEORGE BUCHANAN, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,

THIS VOLUME IS

Respectfully Dedicated

BY

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE present volume is a reprint of a series of articles published in the *Practitioner* (October 1886, to May 1887). Since that time a considerable number of contributions have been made to the knowledge of the comma-bacilli of Koch. These have been added to the present volume; but besides these no noteworthy addition has been made to our knowledge of the bacteria in Asiatic cholera. This need not at all surprise us, considering that with few exceptions most Continental pathologists consider the comma-bacilli of Koch as being the cause of cholera, that is to say as being the real cholera microbes. They consider the chapter of the etiology of *Cholera Asiatica* as closed, and there is therefore no need to look for any other and new cholera microbe. I have ventured to differ from this opinion when writing the above articles in the *Practitioner*, and after all the observations published by various pathologists since then, I still differ from the proposition that Koch's comma-bacilli have been satisfactorily proved to be the cause of cholera.

As then, so also now I hold that the comma-bacilli of Koch do not fulfil the conditions which the cholera microbe ought to fulfil. As then, so also now I agree with the prevailing opinion that the comma-bacilli of Koch are an important diagnostic guide.

I have been credited by various writers with the contrary statement; I have in the articles, as they first appeared, tried to correct such statements, though without effect, and I must therefore again state, that I fully agree with Koch and others as to the constant presence of the comma-bacilli in the cholera intestine and cholera discharges during the early stages, but that here our agreement ends. That the comma-bacilli of Koch are not accepted as the proved cause of cholera, in this I am not alone, as, for instance, Professor Baumgarten seems to think; von Pettenkofer, acknowledged to be the greatest living authority on the etiology of cholera, holds this view, viz. that the comma-bacilli are not the proved cause of cholera; Dr. D. D. Cunningham of Calcutta, who during many years had exceptional opportunities of studying this disease, is of the same opinion. The English Cholera Commission (Professor Roy, Dr. Sherrington and Dr. Brown); Dr. Shakespeare of Philadelphia, and Dr. v. Emmerich of Munich, are the most noteworthy observers who have arrived at the same conclusion after special study of cholera.

E. KLEIN.

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