

**CHOLERA CURABLE: A
DEMONSTRATION OF THE CAUSES,
NON-CONTAGIOUSNESS, AND
SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF THE
DISEASE**

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JOHN CHAPMAN

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CHOLERA CURABLE.

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

DIARRHŒA AND CHOLERA: Their Nature, Origin, and Treatment through the Agency of the Nervous System. 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d. London: 1866.

CASES OF DIARRHŒA AND CHOLERA TREATED SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE AGENCY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. 8vo, 1s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindal & Cox. 1871.

NEURALGIA AND KINDRED DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: their Nature, Causes, and Treatment. 8vo, cloth, 14s. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1873.

FUNCTIONAL DISEASES OF WOMEN: Cases Illustrative of a New Method of treating them through the Agency of the Nervous System. Also an APPENDIX, containing Cases Illustrative of a New Method of treating Epilepsy, Infantile Convulsions, Paralysis, and Diabetes. 8vo, price 2s. 6d. London: 1863.

SEA-SICKNESS, AND HOW TO PREVENT IT: an Explanation of its Nature and successful Treatment through the Agency of the Nervous System. 8vo, cloth, 3s. London: 1868.

DU TRAITEMENT NÉVRO-DYNAMIQUE DANS CERTAINES MALADIES DES YEUX. 8vo, 1 franc. Paris: P. Asselin, 1878.

CHLOROFORM AND OTHER ANÆSTHETICS: their History and Use during Childbirth. 8vo, price 1s.

MEDICAL CHARITY: Its Abuses and the Means of Preventing Them. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d. London: J. & A. Churchill.

THE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM: a History exemplifying the Evils of Over-Legislation. 8vo, cloth, price 2s. 6d. London: J. & A. Churchill.

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PREFACE.

THE doctrines concerning the essential nature, the causes, and the treatment of diarrhœa and cholera explained in the following pages, were first expounded in an essay, published in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, July 29, 1865. That essay, with considerable additions, was published separately in the following month, and was soon afterwards republished in the United States.

In October of the same year, and again in July of the following year, an opportunity was afforded me of testing the correctness of my views, and the efficacy of the treatment which they dictate. The experience which I then gained proved the soundness of the former, and the success of the latter. The English edition of the essay just mentioned, being speedily exhausted, a second and greatly enlarged one, incorporating the results of that experience, was published in the autumn of 1866, under the title: "Diarrhœa and Cholera; their Nature, Origin, and Treatment through the agency of the Nervous System." In November 1884, cholera, in its epidemic form, appeared in Paris, and afforded me another opportunity of making trial of the therapeutical method in question, and of submitting my hypo-

thesis of cholera, together with the facts and arguments on which it is based, to the consideration of one of the most able and distinguished members of the Paris Faculty of Medicine—Professor Peter, Physician to the Hôpital de la Charité. I shall always feel especially grateful to him, not only for his kindness in confiding to my direction the treatment of twelve cases of cholera, but for the very cordial and friendly manner in which he ensured, as far as practicable, that my treatment should be effectively tried, and, above all, for his public and frank recognition at the Paris School of Medicine of the truth of the doctrine, and the success of the treatment, explained in the following pages.

It seems to me desirable that both the medical and lay public should become acquainted with the results of the experiment at the Hôpital de la Charité, and also with the judgment pronounced upon them by a man so fully qualified to judge, and so professionally eminent, as is Professor Peter. I have, therefore, been induced to publish a summary of the book mentioned above, and to add to it an accurate report of the cases treated in Paris, as well as of Professor Peter's appreciation of them, expressed in his lectures on Pathology at the School of Medicine.

Moreover, there are several interesting and important questions connected with the pathology of cholera, which are not adverted to in my book on the subject, published in 1866; for example: What is the immediate cause of the presence of sugar in the urine of many choleraic patients? What is the pathological significance of the ruby-like colour producible in the urine of many choleraics by the addition of nitric acid, as well as of the "typhoid symptoms" of cholera, and how are these produced? What is the meaning of the

established fact—viz., that many more males than females are destroyed by cholera? What is the *real* significance of the comma-shaped microbe, and why does it abound in cholera patients? These questions, I believe, have not hitherto been answered; indeed, I doubt if they have been propounded. I have endeavoured to answer them in the following pages. My answers seem to me the true ones; and certainly each of the explanations given contains an additional argument in support of the hypothesis which, as I maintain, affords a clear and consistent account of all the phenomena of cholera, and indicates how it may be successfully treated.

The answer to the question: What is the pathological significance of the typhoid symptoms of cholera, and how are they produced? will be found, I believe, to deserve especial attention. About a fourth part of the whole number of persons who are destroyed by cholera, die during what is called the period of reaction, and a large proportion of these exhibit typhoid symptoms, which are generally regarded as evidence that cholera is originated by a blood-poison. Now, while supplying an explanation of the production of these symptoms, I have shown how their cause can be annulled, and how, therefore, the lives of those who would otherwise become victims of the typhoid form of the disease may be saved.

It is now just twenty years since the hypothesis explained in this volume was first announced. Its acceptance by the profession has, of course, been tardy and partial; I say, "of course," for the faculty of medicine, as well as the faculty of law, is, it is well known, especially conservative; therefore, when a doctrine so revolutionary, as is the one in question, of prevailing ideas and practices in respect to cholera, is propounded, what can be reasonably expected

from a conservative faculty but conservation? But just as the conservatives, like the poor, are always with us, so too, in every department of life, there are a few active spirits more courageous than the rest, who dare to inquire and think for themselves—to “try all things, and hold fast that which is good;” and such men have not been wanting, in respect not only to the hypothesis of cholera expounded in the following pages, but in respect to the much larger subject, which indeed includes that hypothesis—viz., that of the causal relation of the nervous system to diseases generally, and the possibility of their successful treatment through the agency of that system.

Many physicians who have given little or no attention to the neuro-dynamic pathology, etiology, and treatment of cholera, have, nevertheless, been induced to consider more or less superficially, or profoundly, those general principles of neuro-pathology and neuro-dynamic medicine, which enable them to effect cures either otherwise impossible, or with a swiftness and completeness unattainable by means of drugs. The numerous reports which medical men in different parts of the world have been good enough to send me of cures wrought under the guidance of the therapeutical principles, and by means of the practice, which I have introduced—cures considered by them sufficiently interesting or important to be recorded and communicated to me—would fill a large volume. These reports have come to me not only from England, Ireland and Scotland, but also from France, Belgium, Germany, Australia, British Guiana, Canada and the United States. These encouraging facts lead me to hope they are an earnest that before long the medical world will appreciate and make use of the power, already within their reach, by