

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE
PATHOLOGY AND
TREATMENT OF CHOLERA**

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Observations on the pathology and treatment of cholera by John Murray

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JOHN MURRAY

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CHOLERA



OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT
OF
CHOLERA

THE RESULT OF FORTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE

BY

JOHN MURRAY, M.D.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS, LATE OF BENGAL



LONDON

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1874

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PREFACE.

I HAVE BEEN REQUESTED by many esteemed professional friends to give my views of the treatment of cholera in India, where I especially directed my attention to the disease; and had repeated opportunities of testing the result of remedies. I had there an opportunity of forming an opinion on many of the most important points that are still unsettled, and I have now leisure to examine the opinions of others; and I find that though much has been written on the history, causes, and pathology of the disease, little has been said about the treatment, beyond giving a list of medicines supposed to act specifically on the disease.

The only rational system of treatment I have seen proposed is to eliminate the poison by means of purgatives. This has some advocates in this

country, and was recommended during the late epidemic in France. The theory is sound when implying the elimination of the poison from the blood by the action of the secreting organs by which impurities are separated from it, viz. the liver, kidneys, and lungs; but in this disease increased action of the bowels has a strong tendency to get beyond control and induce collapse, during which active remedies have lost their power, and the mildest palliatives alone can be safely employed.

Cholera appears to have taken up a permanent residence in Europe, and England cannot hope to escape its visitation. The knowledge of a rational system of treatment is much required, and it is in the hope of aiding in this investigation that I now submit my views during the lull that precedes the storm, that they may be more calmly considered than would be possible when the disease is raging.

J. M.

17 WESTBOURNE SQUARE, LONDON:

January 1, 1874.

THE
PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT
OF
CHOLERA.

THE knowledge that has of late years been ac-
quired of the course of the symptoms, has ma-
terially aided in the rational treatment of cholera; ^{The}
though in this alarming disease it is probable ^{history.}
that empirical remedies will still continue to be
extensively employed when ordinary medicines
appear to have lost all power. There are few
diseases more rapid in their fatal course than
cholera, or less influenced by medicine in the
advanced stage of collapse; but it is more amen-
able to treatment in the stages of malaise and
diarrhœa, than most other diseases that are more
violent in their earlier course. One of the most
characteristic peculiarities of this disease is the
suddenness of the change to antagonistic or