



Cholera.—Review of the Opinions on the Subject.

What is the Cholera? This is a question on which no two persons seem to agree. One esteems it to be infectious, and another considers it to be epidemic. Last year the papers both at home and abroad gave noted instances of it being caused by an absence of electricity in the atmosphere, and if I am not much mistaken, galvanic belts, and small portable batteries were allowed to be the only antidote for the evil. But how stupid and ignorant those electric Choleric theorists must have been, for lo and behold it has just been proven to a demonstration (of a nonentity) that the disease is caused by something that is called *ozone*, in the atmosphere. What this ozone is the writer of this article cannot tell although he tries to keep up with the changes in chemical nomenclature. But surely there must be such a thing, when so much learning has been displayed upon the subject, describing its nature, and the way to neutralize its deadly effects. Ah, well what is ozone? Somehow or other we have not been able to discover. All the *learned* seem to agree that it must be a greater quantity of azote in the atmosphere here than there should be, viz. 79 parts by measure. The proper name for *azote* is nitrogen, and whether the wise ones meant to say *ozena*, from the Greek to smell, fistula of a putrid nature in the nose, or not, is somewhat difficult to tell, but it is very certain that some of them smelt a rat at any rate, for no sooner was it announced "with plaudits loud," in our city, that Dr. Bird, of Chicago, Illinois, had discovered that sulphur was a perfect cure for cholera, by destroying the *ozone*, then up went the price of sulphur like the mercury after a storm.

The cures for cholera are legion. Tobacco, Brandy, Opium, Camphor, Sulphur, Charcoal, Brandreth's Pills, Gunpowder and a host of other things. We believe that the Cholera which is at present in our city, is nothing but a sympathetic disease, and in my letter last week to the *Scientific American* I recommended a simple mode of treatment, as I consider it to be as good as any other.

We have instances of sympathetic affection influencing families, institutions and whole districts of country. The Hospital at Harlaem in which the children were seized with sympathetic fits, and cured by the famous Borhaeve, is an illustrious example. So are the religious fits of various sects, so eminently portrayed in Mr. Davidson's work on the subject. If there was any argument more strong than another to prove that the disease called Cholera said to be in our city at present, is nothing more than sympathetic affection, it is this, that adults alone have been the sufferers. A slight attack of diarrhoea being the basis of the disease, imagination did the rest. In such cases confidence in the prescription is the best certainty of cure. Bathing, regular exercise in the open air, calmness of mind, (the best point of all in the Mayor's proclamation) and an attention to domestic cleanliness, are sure preventatives of disease. It is indeed true, that people of the most regular habits, are sometimes affected with sickness. No one can doubt this. But it is as positively true that fear and excitement are grand elements in creating and in spreading contagious diseases.

New York. J. W., M. D.

[Ozone according to the experiments of Professor Schonbein, is a distinct peroxyd of hydrogen, and at the ordinary temperature forms a peculiar compound with olefiant gas without apparently oxidising in the least, either the hydrogen or carbon of this gas.—Ed.]

The stock for the construction of the Electric Telegraph from Quebec to Halifax has been subscribed for, and the line from Halifax to Farther point, on the St. Lawrence, is commenced.

Improved Method of Tempering Edge Tools.

For heating axes or other similar articles, a heating furnace is constructed in the form of a vertical cylinder, the exterior made of sheet iron lined with fire brick 4 ft. 8 in. diameter, or of such outside diameter as to give it an inside one of 4 ft. and 3 ft. high. In the interior of this cylinder, several fire chambers are formed, usually four; the inner wall of each fire chamber is 18 in. long, 4 in. from front to back, and about 4 in. in depth, forming, in the whole, a circle of 3 ft 4 in. diameter: under each there are grate bars, and air is supplied through a pipe, connected with a blowing apparatus. A circular table of cast iron, 3 ft. 4 in. diameter, is made to revolve slowly on the level with the upper part of the said chambers; this chamber is sustained on a central shaft, which passes down through the furnace, and has its bearing in a step below it; a pulley keyed on to it serves to communicate rotary motion to the table. When the axes or other articles are to be heated, they are placed upon the table with their bits or steeled parts projecting so far over its edge as to bring them directly over the centre of the fire, and the table is kept slowly revolving during the whole time of heating. When duly heated, they are ready for the process of hardening. The hardening bath consists of a circular vat of salt water; within the tub or vat, a little above the surface of the liquid, is a wheel mounted horizontally, with a number of hooks around the periphery, upon which the axes or other articles are suspended; the height of the hooks from the surface of the liquid is such as to allow the steeled part only to be immersed; as soon as the hardening is effected, the articles are removed from the hooks, and cooled by dipping in cold water. With the best cast steel, a temperature of 510° Fahr. has been found to produce a good result in hardening in about 45 minutes.

Supply of Coal.

Last February, at a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, a paper was read "On the Coal Field of South Wales," by Mr. J. Richardson. Reference was made as to the probable duration of the supply of coal in Great Britain, from the several mineral districts of which the extent is already known. This was variously stated by eminent authorities at between two hundred years and seventeen hundred years.

Great Britain has about 12,000 square miles of coal;—Now, if that quantity is sufficient to last for from two hundred to seventeen hundred years—with an increasing demand for home consumption and an augmenting export trade, amounting, at present, to upwards of 6,000,000 of tons annually—how long may we safely estimate the supply of the Great Central Coal Field of the West, comprising, as it does, an area of at least 70,000 square miles.

Wheeling (Va.) Silk Manufactory.

The editor of the *Wheeling Gazette* has been examining the stock of silk goods manufactured from the cocoons, at the Wheeling Silk Manufactory of John W. Gill, Esq., and is really surprised to find that goods so beautiful in texture and color are produced in Wheeling, or, indeed anywhere in the United States. In the texture, particularly, it thinks them superior to most imported articles of the same sort, certainly so far as durability is concerned. Mr. Gill is first, if not the very first, to establish the manufacture of the finer silk fabrics in the United States.

To Editors and Publishers in the U. S.

Mr. Vattemare wishes to place in the "American Library," which is now being formed in the City Hall, Paris—"A Collection of American Newspapers, presented to the City of Paris, by the Journalists of the United States, July 4th, 1849." He will thank all editors and publishers to send to the "Boston Daily Bee," (the editor of which has undertaken to form the collection,) a copy of their paper published on the Fourth of July, 1849, with a copy of each semi-weekly and weekly which they may issue during the first week in July. Papers published in other American nations, and old or rare newspapers, will be thankfully received. Acknowledgments will be made through the Boston Bee of all donations received.

Coolidge said not to be Dead.

A paper published in Maine, entitled Mann's Physician, states there is reason to believe that the body found in the cell were Coolidge should have been, may have been the corpse of some stranger resembling Coolidge, and that Coolidge has been restored to liberty. We do not assert it with the fullest confidence but we have many very strong reasons to believe that Valour P. Coolidge is not dead—which we could give to the public, where we called upon. On the other hand, the 'Hallowell Cultivator' says the body of Coolidge was given up to his relatives by the State Prison officers on Monday, and was taken to North Livermore by his brother on Tuesday.

[The above first report will find many believers, those who were not satisfied with the report of Coolidge's death. The name and examination of the prisoner who was the alleged cause of detection has not publicly been known.]

Influence of the Press.

In Montreal the newspapers have always been Tory for the most part. The popular papers at Toronto have ever been Liberal—for progress. Mark a result. The St. Andrews' Society of Montreal expelled Lord Elgin almost unanimously, though he is a Scotchman, and lineal representative of 'the Bruce of Bannockburn,' for exercising a royal prerogative on his oath to the best of his judgement. The St. Andrews' Society of Toronto, sixty members being present, voted to His Excellency an address of thanks for his conduct, with but one dissenting voice.

All the St. Andrews' Societies in the United States, go with the one in Toronto in sentiment. The Vandals who sacked the Parliament House of Montreal, cannot be trusted in any country.

Law of Patents in Prussia.

Every invention is submitted to the examination of the Patent Commission, in order to ascertain whether it is quite new, or an improvement. The specification must have good and correct drawings, [nothing said about a model,] with a clear description, which should be "sealed or packed up in a convenient way, and sent with some lines to the Minister of Trade and Commerce at Berlin, by which the latter is informed of the application for a patent" for the thing described. Patents not being granted to foreigners, it is necessary to name some citizens of Prussia to whom the grant may be made. Foreigners usually employ an agent to obtain their patents. Cost of Prussian patent two and a half Prussian thalers—[about two dollars.] "The examination is a very thorough one," and if the invented object has a likeness with an existing one, or the improvement is not a real one, or if published the delivery of a patent is refused.

Cockroaches.

We have often heard it asked, what end those disgusting creatures serve in the economy of Nature—or in other words, what they are good for. We have just learned. It will hardly be believed—but we assert it as a fact that the manufacturers of Sherry Madeira wine communicate to the liquors their peculiar flavor, by an infusion of baked cockroaches, which interesting insects or "big bugs," are roasted in an oven set apart for this most odorous and peculiar use. We hope our veracity will not be impeached, as we have for authority one of the most extensive and respectable wine merchants in this city; who in confirmation of the above fact, related to us that a friend of his, not content with the delicate flavor thus imparted by the manufacturer had every day brought to him for dinner, a live cockroach, with which he amused himself, pampering his appetite by dipping it up and down in his Madeira.

[We clip the above from an exchange.—We have seen it in a number of papers. Who can believe it to be true? Surely no person of common sense.]

It is said of Burke that he always read a book as if he were never to see it again.

Most men look through new books as if they contained nothing new. The consequence is—

Mr. Foskit, the inventor of the New Boiler Feeder, noticed in our last, resides at Meriden, Ct. not Windsor.

Coal in Massachusetts.

The Boston Times says that it has been ascertained by geological examinations, heretofore made by Prof. Hitchcock and Dr. C. T. Jackson, and more recently by Thomas S. Ridgeway, Jr. Esq., Geologist and Mining Engineer, Philadelphia, that there is good Anthracite Coal in the town of Marshfield in this State, and we learn that the Marshfield Coal and Mining Company, incorporated at the last session of our Legislature, have contracted with some experienced English miners to bore to the depth of 200 feet, are progressing rapidly, (now at the depth of 40 feet,) under the superintendance of Thos. S. Ridgeway, Jr. Esq.

Turkish Education.

The Turkish government is interesting itself in having men thoroughly educated in every branch of agriculture, for the purpose of introducing among the subjects of the government the best practical information in farming. In all the Turkish houses you will see on one side which the blinds are always closed. These are the apartments of the women: who live entirely separate from the male portions of the family. At the age of twelve, boys are removed from the society of their mothers and sisters.

Land Speculation.

We see it asserted in a number of papers that Mr. Maclay, recently a democratic member of Congress from this city, has purchased in connection with his three brothers, very nearly, if not altogether, a whole county in the State of Illinois, at the head of navigation on the Illinois River. The tract was mostly purchased by soldiers' land warrants which were purchased at a cost of not over sixty cents an acre. The land is said to be unsurpassed in America.

Sub-Rosa.

This compound word is often used in writing and conversation, as significant of secrecy. It is said that its derivation is as follows: anciently, the Greeks consecrated the rose to Hippocrates, the genius of Silence. And either the rose or its representation was placed upon the ceiling of their dining-rooms, implying that whatever was done therein should be kept from public knowledge. It was done sub-rosa, or under the rose.

An English Clock in Constantinople.

A large clock showing the time upon two faces and striking the hours and quarters has been placed upon a tower built for the purpose in the Arsenal at Constantinople. The clock was built in London and is the first public clock put up in a Mahomedan country.

The Masons employed on the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, have struck for higher wages—\$2 per day. They claim this on the ground that it is a customary price for good workmen, and that the same was paid to the Masons in constructing the Patent Office, and other public buildings at Washington and Georgetown. We are not advocates of strikes of this kind, unless there are good reasons, but in this case we should think the laborer worth the hire he asks.

The mine at Gold Hill, in Rowan County, N. C. has been yielding \$360,000 per annum, during the last five years. It is now worked by eight different mining companies, who have invested capital to the amount of \$300,000. It was discovered 18 or 20 years ago.

Ninety thousand land-warrants have been issued to soldiers who served in the Mexican War, giving away to them as a bounty 13,800,000 acres. So that, estimating the value of this land at \$1.25 an acre, we must add \$17,230,000 to the aggregate cost of the Mexican War.

If the robbin and other small birds are encouraged to build near the habitations of man they will prefer such locations to extensive forests and swamps, where hawks and crows and snakes are more apt to be their neighbors.

Arrangements, it is stated, have already been made for printing the Scriptures in five of the principal cities in Italy, and colporteurs appointed for distribution.