

of the Metropolitan Unions ; and that, even at the present time, it is in action only in some few of the parishes, and that in no one of them has there as yet been provided an adequate visiting staff ; but they lose no time in announcing the following results of this first week's trial, imperfect as that trial has unavoidably been. It may be desirable, however, before stating the details, to recal attention to the grounds on which this practice has been urged.

The concurrent testimony of Parochial Medical Officers, as the result of their recent experience, is to the effect that the only method of dealing with that form of cholera which is preceded by a marked premonitory stage, and which forms a large majority of the whole epidemic seizures, is to direct and concentrate medical treatment specially against this stage ; that open Dispensaries, and the circulation of printed notices have afforded essential assistance in bringing this stage under early medical treatment ; that hardly any cases pass into cholera after having been brought, by these means, under immediate treatment ; that the cases of developed cholera to which they have been called almost invariably take place among persons who have not availed themselves of these measures of prevention ; and that, as regards the metropolis, such cases constitute by far the largest proportion of the entire epidemic which has occasioned so many deaths in London ; that it is therefore absolutely necessary that steps should be taken to bring this large class of cases under prompt treatment by some other course of procedure, and that the only effectual means hitherto discovered of accomplishing this object, is the system of house to house visitation.

The following facts will show, that this system, in the short space of time in which it has been put in operation in some of the most severely affected of the metropolitan districts, has led to the more early discovery and treatment of cholera, both in its premonitory and developed stages ; the rescuing numbers of persons from the consequences of their own neglect, and the saving of many lives.

Dr. Gavin, in relation to the Bethnal-Green district, reports, that the visitors, four in number, in the week in which they have been engaged in this service, have discovered in the part of the districts chiefly infected, no fewer than 1571 cases of diarrhœa, 57 cases of rice-water purging—that is, cases closely approaching to cholera, and 69 cases of cholera. Out of the total number of diarrhœal cases, there have been only two deaths, and out of the cases approaching to cholera, there has been only one death. In the whole parish, in the three weeks preceding the adoption of this system, the deaths from cholera were successively 124, 127, 128 ; in the week during which this system has been in operation, the deaths from cholera have been 96. When the deaths in the district under visitation shall have been extracted, a much greater diminution of the mortality will be shown to have taken place than is suggested by these figures, for it will be seen that the mortality was diminished in the district under visitation while it went on as before in the other parts of the parish. The whole of the cases discovered by the visitation, the diarrhœal cases, the cases approaching to cholera, and the cases even of developed cholera, had, up to the period of the visitation, been without any medical assistance. There is no reason to suppose that the majority of these persons would have applied for medical relief at all, as they appear to have been wholly unconscious of the danger they were in, and the visitors discovered the corpses of six persons who

died of cholera without having received any medical aid whatever.

Mr Liddle reports, that in the district under his superintendence, comprising the parish of St. Luke's and Islington, the visitors have already discovered and brought under immediate treatment 382 cases of neglected diarrhœa, and 56 cases closely approaching to cholera, 2 only of which have passed into cholera.

Dr. King, in respect to Lambeth and Newington, reports, that in the four days during which the visitation has been organized and in operation, the visitors have discovered and brought under immediate treatment 2193 neglected cases of diarrhœa, and 67 cases on the verge of cholera, but that none of these, as far as has been ascertained, have passed into cholera. Dr. King farther states, that "the visitation has done good work, and far from refusing this kind of relief, the afflicted poor hail it as the greatest blessing that has yet befallen them in their calamity."

Mr Walsh reports, of St. Olave's, St. Saviour's, and a small part of St. George's district, that the visitors have discovered 286 cases of neglected diarrhœa, 26 cases on the verge of cholera, very few of which have passed into the severe form, and 124 cases of cholera.

In St. George's, Southwark, the three medical visitors discovered in four days, 42 cases of gastric affections usually preceding diarrhœa, 93 neglected cases of diarrhœa, 17 cases where the disease had gone on to rice-water purging, and 19 cases of cholera.

In the Stepney district, with an exceedingly imperfect Visiting Staff, Mr Falconer reports, "that there were discovered in a single day, 130 cases of neglected diarrhœa, 2 cases approaching to cholera, 2 cases of developed cholera, and the corpses of several persons who had died of cholera without having received any medical assistance whatever, and that in Whitechapel there were subsequently discovered 490 cases of neglected diarrhœa, and 13 cases of rice-water purging, none of which have passed into cholera."

Dr. MacLoughlin states in relation to the Poplar and Greenwich District, that the visitors discovered in a few days 733 cases of diarrhœa, and 32 cases of cholera which had not previously been seen by any medical men, and reports that the medical visitors were well received by the poor, who express themselves gratified for the attention they receive ; that their only regret is that house to house visitation had not been adopted earlier, as then, they say, their dear friends in the grave might still have been alive ; and that the Chairman of one of the Unions, who had in the first instance opposed the introduction of the house to house visitation, now expressed his regret that it had not long since been in operation.

While this Notification has been under consideration, the period of visitation has been extended, and the sum total of the cases discovered and brought under immediate treatment up to Saturday, September 15th, in the several parts of the Metropolitan districts, which have been got under visitation, is as follows : Of premonitory diarrhœa, 7465, and of rice-water purging, 354 ; altogether 7819 ; and of this number, only 25 have passed into cholera. It must be repeated that none of these cases had received any medical treatment whatever, up to the period of visitation, and that few of them, unless thus sought out, would have been brought under treatment until they had passed into the stage of collapse.