

shall include a printed magazine, printed review, and printed pamphlet; and that the term, "by the Post," used in this Warrant, shall, as to the conveyance, include the conveyance by packet-boat, and shall also include the conveyance through Egypt, so long as no transit rate of postage be payable thereon; and that the term "East Indies" used in this Warrant, shall be construed to mean every port or place in Asia within the limits of the Charter of the East India Company (China, Hong-Kong, Ceylon, the Mauritius, Java, Borneo, and Australia, excepted), and that the several other terms and expressions used in this Warrant shall be construed to have the like meaning, in all respects, as they would have had if inserted in the said Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty.

And we farther direct that this Warrant shall come into operation on the nineteenth day of April 1854.

Provided lastly, and we do hereby declare and direct that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners for the time being of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any two of them, by Warrant under their hands, at any time hereafter to alter or repeal any of the rates hereby fixed or altered, or the regulations hereby made, and to make and establish any new or other rates or regulations in lieu thereof, and from time to time to appoint at what time the rates that may be payable are to be paid.

Whitehall, Treasury-Chambers, the thirteenth day of April 1854.

W. E. GLADSTONE.
ALFRED HARVEY.

NOTIFICATION.

*General Board of Health, Whitehall,
April 17, 1854.*

THE General Board of Health deem it their duty to warn Boards of Guardians, Local Boards of Health, Parochial Boards, and other local authorities, against placing a false security in the present apparent disappearance of epidemic cholera.

It is of the last importance to bear in mind that a similar decline of the pestilence took place at corresponding periods of its progress on both its former visitations.

The attack of 1831 was premonitory of a more severe and wide-spread outbreak in 1832.

The epidemic of 1848, which in the autumn of that year numbered nearly one thousand victims in the metropolis, almost wholly disappeared in the spring, yet returned with redoubled violence in the summer, destroyed nearly two thousand persons weekly for several weeks in succession, and produced, including deaths from diarrhoea, a total mortality of more than 17,000.

In like manner, the outbreak of last autumn, which commenced with greater virulence than the epidemic of 1848, and destroyed in the metropolis during the first months of its course double the number of victims, has been followed by a lull, which has been more complete than that of 1849. But within the last month the disease has again become more active, and a gradual increase has taken place in the number of deaths, raising, for this month, the total deaths in England and Scotland to twice the amount of the corresponding period of 1849. The analogy of the preceding visitations therefore justifies the apprehension that the disease, instead of having ceased, is in its period of incubation, and that THE epidemic, in its decided form and full force, is yet to come.

The modifications in its character which the pestilence has recently exhibited, are of a nature to

render it doubly necessary that the first indications of its appearance in a locality should be vigilantly watched. In the majority of the places which it has hitherto attacked, it has seized its victims more suddenly, and hurried them through its fatal course with greater rapidity than on any preceding visitation.

One stage of the disease, formerly well marked, and of the utmost value with reference to the opportunity afforded for the application of the means of prevention, is now generally much shorter in duration, and often even suppressed, namely, that denoted by the term "approaching cholera." Premonitory diarrhoea does still indeed exist, but that also is commonly of shorter duration, and passes more directly and rapidly into cholera, and cholera itself into collapse.

During its first visitation in 1831 and 1832, the attacks of the epidemic, with few exceptions, were confined to the poorer portions of the population residing in the most neglected and unhealthy districts. In 1848 and 1849, it was fatal to larger numbers of the middle classes inhabiting better conditioned localities and houses. As far as the disease has yet advanced, the proportion of the better class attacked is still greater than in 1849.

In that year, among the total number of persons who perished by the epidemic in the metropolis, 81 per cent. were labourers and artizans, and 15 per cent. were tradesmen; but in the places in which the disease has lately prevailed, the proportion of deaths among labourers and artizans has been only 72 per cent. while the mortality amongst tradesmen has reached 24 per cent. In like manner in the epidemic of 1849 the proportion of the deaths of the gentry and professional persons to the total deaths, was 2.6 per cent., but recently it has risen to 3.2 per cent. In other countries the disease has not spared the highest classes, and if the safeguards against it are neglected, there is no reason why it should in our own.

It is further indicative of an increasing activity and intensity in the pestilence, that while the interval between its first and second visitations was sixteen years, the interval between its second and third visitations has been only four years; and that its second visitation was far more extensive and mortal than the first. In the absence of more efficient precautions against it, there appears no reasonable ground for the expectation that the third will be less extensive and mortal than the second.

Besides the loss of life, the pecuniary loss occasioned by these local out-breaks demands attention. Irrespective of the permanent expense entailed on towns both by public rates and private contributions for the maintenance of widows, orphans, and others pauperized by the epidemic, the losses sustained by individual tradesmen, from the interruption, and in some instances, the almost total suspension of commerce, are most severe. In some recent instances the sum thus lost would have sufficed to defray a very large proportion of the outlay required to place the town in a permanently safe and satisfactory sanitary condition. It is estimated that the total cost of the visitation of 1848 and 1849 to England and Scotland, exclusive of the cost to Ireland, could not have been less than 2,000,000*l.*

From these considerations, the Board have learnt with great regret that since the lull in the epidemic, local authorities in numerous instances have suspended the preventive measures which they have actively commenced, under the assumption that the visitation of cholera is over, and that therefore the occasion for further watchfulness and effort has ceased.