

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 diarrhoeal 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 diarrhoea, 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 diarrhoea, 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 further 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 diarrhoea, 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 diarrhoea, 93 neglected cases of diarrhoea, 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 diarrhoea, 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 diarrhoea, 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 diarrhoea 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 expresses 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 diarrhoea, 7465, and of rice-water purging, 354; altogether 7819; 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.

The number of neglected cases discovered by this procedure and brought under prompt treatment is usually great in proportion to the intelligence and energy with which the visitation is carried out. From a communication just received from Sheffield, it appears that during the last week the medical officers have, by this system, discovered and brought under immediate treatment, 1,582 cases of diarrhoea, out of which number only one has passed into cholera, and that during this period there has been only one death from cholera in the districts under visitation, while in other parts of the town, among the wealthier classes, several deaths have occurred. An excellent rule has been adopted in this town with reference to Dispensaries. One dose of medicine is immediately given at these Dispensaries to any applicant; but on receiving the medicine the applicant is required to give in writing his name and address; this is forwarded at once to a medical officer, who sees the patient without delay, and thus it is almost impossible for a case of cholera to escape his notice.

From such experience, corroborative of the mass of evidence already presented in various returns and reports, the General Board of Health have deemed it an imperative duty to call on the Boards of Guardians to provide such a number of visitors as may be required to carry out an efficient system of house to house visitation over the whole of the affected districts of the metropolis, with a view to check, as far as may be practicable, the progress of the pestilence, and at all events to save as many lives as possible.

But the amount of time required for this duty and the care with which it must be performed, in order to be effectual, has made it impossible for the Parochial Medical Officers to undertake it, along with their other onerous public duties, and also the demands of their own private practice. The General Board of Health have therefore deemed it to be absolutely necessary to keep the Medical Visitation of houses, the object of which is *preventive*, distinct from the ordinary medical provision for the relief of sickness; and they have issued peremptory orders for the appointment of persons to act solely as house to house visitors.

Desirous that no means should be left untried for the purpose of directing prompt medical aid against the premonitory stage of this formidable malady, the General Board of Health have addressed circulars requesting the aid of religious and other charitable associations through the agency of their Visitors who, it has been thought, might, in performing their customary duties, render valuable aid in impressing upon the minds of the people the extreme importance of applying for medical aid without delay on the first appearance of any premonitory symptoms.

Representations having been made to the General Board of Health, that numbers of persons engaged in various workshops and manufactories of the metropolis have been seized with cholera shortly