

## NEWINGTON.

*Report of Cases detailed by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, Inspector of the  
Camberwell and Newington Districts.*

*Albany Road, 27th February, Five, P. M.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to lay before you the following brief notice of the cases which have occurred, up to this moment, in the district of Newington Butts.

They have been eight in number, and confined in situation of occurrence, to Kent-street, and the courts and lanes running thence towards the Surrey side. The boundary line dividing the districts of Newington and Southwark passes through this street, leaving the west side of the street in Newington, and the east in Southwark.

CASE I.—The first case which occurred in the Newington district, was in the practice of Mr. Boddy, one of the parish surgeons. The patient's name was *George Freemantle*, labourer, of reputed good habits. He was about thirty years of age, and a native of Lee, in Kent. Having returned thence to London, on Saturday, the 18th February, in a state of generally good health, his bowels became deranged soon after his arrival, and on Sunday, early in the morning, he was seized with vomiting and spasms; the purging redoubled in severity; his pulse fluttered, and became imperceptible; his features sunk, and assumed a livid tint, and despite the most judicious treatment, he died in twenty-four hours.

No inspection of the body took place, but the dejections were described to be of the character peculiar to the malignant Cholera. I give this summary of the present case from the description of Mr. Boddy, as I did not myself see it during life. *Freemantle* was taken ill, and died at 181, Kent-street, in a room up two pair of stairs. On enquiry respecting the origin of the disease, no communication whatever could be traced with any person or things calculated to convey infection.

Cases had, however, occurred in various adjacent parts, and particularly one on the day previous to which he took ill, viz. a young woman residing nearly opposite, who was removed to the hospital near Bethlem, where she died.

CASE II.—Mrs. Sims, aged 38, residing at 244, Kent-street, on the second floor, in a state of abject poverty, delicate health, and of supposed intemperate habits, was attacked with severe diarrhœa early on the morning of the 20th February; this continued for some hours before she requested medical assistance, and was at length accompanied by spasmodic twitches of the hands, extreme coldness, a tendency to lividity of the skin, and considerable vomiting. I saw this patient in the evening, at 7, P. M., when, from the absence of pulse, the ex-

treme coldness and dampness of the skin, the shrinking of the hands, collapse of the features, the prodigious purging, and marked character of the evacuations, I had no hesitation in pronouncing the disease to be the same in every respect with that which I had seen in Sunderland and Newcastle. I may add, that turmeric test paper was turned to a deep orange by the evacuation, a phenomenon which sufficiently indicates its chemical composition, and which in connexion with the experiments I have already had the honour to lay before the Board, seems to me to constitute a sure diagnostic test for the recognition of this disease.

Under the active treatment of Mr. Boddy, (principally calomel, opium, and brandy,) the patient recovered in a few days. No communication whatever could be traced between this and the preceding cases.

CASE III.—William Mansfield, labourer, aged 22, of previous good health and sober habits, residing in Catherine-wheel-court, Kent-street, and sleeping on the second floor, was attacked at 3, A.M. of the night of Sunday, the 25th instant, with epigastric pain, cramps of the extremities, vomiting and purging, which symptoms continued during the morning until 9, A.M., when he was humanely removed into the Cholera Hospital belonging to the adjoining parish, and situate opposite the Bethlem Asylum. I visited him at 7, P.M., and found him cold and damp, pulseless, and livid; his features were collapsed and sunk to an extraordinary degree; his tongue clean and moist, and as cold as marble, his breath also perfectly cold. He was quite rational, but extremely restless, and tossed about continually in his bed.

The nurses informed me, that during the day he had been severely purged, that the evacuations were watery, that he had suffered also from cramps, had passed no urine, and that at times his skin was as blue "as if he had been rubbed with a washerwoman's blue rag;" this colour frequently appeared and disappeared during the day.

I left this young fellow still alive, but evidently in a desperate state. I could not ascertain the particulars of the treatment to which he had been subjected.

Minute enquiry at his lodgings and in his neighbourhood, failed to trace the slightest apparent source of infection, or any intercourse with persons or things likely to communicate this disease.

CASE IV.—Daniel Coghlan, bricklayer, of rather intemperate habits, aged 55, 9, Royal-tent-court, a miserable alley thickly inhabited by starving Irish having been previously in excellent health, and being a hale, athletic man, in comparatively good circumstances, was seized at 7, A.M., on the 26th, with vomiting, purging, epigastric pain and muscular spasms. His features soon sunk, he became livid and cold, and he died in 25 hours. The case was seen by Mr. Callaway, and several other medical gentlemen. The details of treatment I could not ascertain; no communication could be traced with persons or things calculated to propagate this disease.

CASE V.—Female, name unknown, aged about 30, in extreme poverty, and of dissolute habits, lodged on the second floor, 188, Kent-street, was seized with the symptoms common to the preceding cases, on the morning of the 26th, and died in 24 hours. No communication traced with the other patients.

CASE VI.—The infant child of No. 5, suckled its poor mother till she breathed her last, and it was shortly after seized with the characteristic symptoms, but in a mild form. This case remains under treatment.

CASE VII.—Michael Mibane, a delicate boy, aged 12, residing 4, George-yard, Kent-street, in a miserable den thickly inhabited by starving Irish, was attacked in the usual manner at 8, A.M., on the 26th. I visited him at 9, P.M., 27th, and found him getting well, although the eyes were still sunk, and countenance collapsed and somewhat livid.

I must reserve the details of the 8th case, name and residence returned in yesterday's report, until I can again see the surgeon in whose practice it occurred.

No epizootic disease of any kind or degree existed among the domestic animals in the houses in which these cases occurred. The general health of the district is good, but diarrhœa commences to prevail unusually in its eastern extremity.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, M. D.

*Inspector of the Camberwell and Newington Districts.*

W. MACLEAN, ESQ.