

EXPERIMENTS ON THE BLOOD IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having been enabled to complete the experimental inquiries on which I have some time back been engaged in Newcastle upon-Tyne, I beg you will have the kindness to give insertion to the annexed outlines of the results I have obtained:—

1. The blood drawn in the worst cases of the cholera, is unchanged in its anatomical or globular structure.

2. It has lost a large proportion of its water, 1000 parts of cholera serum having but the average of 860 parts of water.

3. It has lost also a great proportion of its NEUTRAL saline ingredients.

4. Of the free alkali contained in healthy serum, not a particle is present in some cholera cases, and barely a trace in others.*

5. Urea exists in the cases where suppression of urine has been a marked symptom.

6. All the salts deficient in the blood, especially the carbonate of soda, are present in large quantities in the peculiar white dejected matters.*

There are other results of minor consequence, to which I will not at present allude, neither shall I on this occasion offer any observation on the practical inference to which my experiments may lead. In a few days a detailed report shall be published, in which the mode of analysis, &c. will be minutely described. It will be found, I regret to say, in every essential particular, to contradict that recently given by Hermann. All my experiments, however, have been publicly performed, and can be authenticated by numerous witnesses, a precaution I thought it necessary to adopt, lest it might be supposed that I impugned, without sufficient foundation, the accuracy of the Moscow professor.

May I add, that until the publication of my report, I shall deem the suspension of discussion on the results now introduced as a matter of personal courtesy and obligatiou.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

London, 29 December, 1831.