

lives by the local surgical treatment" which he has applied; and he closes with an expression of wonder that in the quarter of a century and more since he "opened out this wide and important field of observation in the diseases of pregnancy and the puerperal state, so little has been done in it."

I think I have represented the attitude of each gentleman fairly, though I confess my inability in a condensed sketch to do justice to the absurdity, from a scientific point of view, compressed into the whole correspondence. I commend the whole, as contained in the *British Medical Journal* of May 15th and 29th, and June 12th, to the perusal of all who assent to the prefatory remark of Dr. Copeman, that "practical knowledge should be freely communicated to the profession through our journal. . . . as a valuable means of effecting improvement in the treatment of disease."

I submit, however, that if the exhortation to free communications carries with it encouragement to imperfect observation, careless statement, vacillating conclusion, and reckless generalization in the interest of partisan theories, the improvement may not follow any more rapidly than under a more cautious and reserved policy. If the President of the British Medical Association and eminent practitioners fall into such errors, what better can be expected of the rank and file of the profession? In fine, if the medical profession countenance the methods of charlatanism and ignorance, how can they blame the public if, no wiser than themselves, it fail to discern the difference between scientific medicine and impudent quackery?

JAMES S. GREENE.

DORCHESTER, July 27, 1875.

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF PREVALENT DISEASES.

THE following is a bulletin of the diseases prevalent in Massachusetts during the week ending August 21, 1875, compiled under the authority of the State Board of Health from the returns of physicians representing all sections of the State:—

The week's returns present the same general features with reference to prevalent diseases as those reported in previous weeks of the current month. The sultry weather sustains the diarrhoeal diseases at the highest point, and enables them to exhibit a very marked contrast with the other acute disorders. The following is a summary of the returns from the various sections:—

Berkshire: Diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera morbus.

Valley: Diarrhoea, cholera morbus, cholera infantum, dysentery. Some cases of small-pox in Holyoke. Typhoid fever is increasing.

Midland: Cholera morbus, diarrhoea, cholera infantum, dysentery. Upton reports some cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Northeastern: Diarrhoea, cholera infantum, cholera morbus, dysentery.

Metropolitan: Cholera infantum (of severe type), diarrhoea, cholera morbus, dysentery, typhoid fever (increasing, but of mild type), scarlatina.

Southeastern: Diarrhoea, cholera morbus, cholera infantum, dysentery. Attleboro reports fatal cerebro-spinal meningitis.

In the State at large, cholera infantum, cholera morbus, and typhoid fever have increased in prevalence; all the other diseases have subsided somewhat.

F. W. DRAPER, M. D., Registrar.