

July 10

1832

**SUSPECTED CHOLERA.**—On Saturday morning, two cases of very sudden death, which have been generally attributed to Cholera, occurred in our harbour; the following are such particulars as we have been able to collect. The Union, a small fishing boat belonging to Allyby, was in Maryport on Tuesday last, having two men and a boy on board. On that day one of the men attended this market with fish, and the other attended Wigton market. Both men returned to Maryport much intoxicated. On Wednesday they sailed with their boat for the coast of Scotland, and that morning one of them began to be affected with purging which gradually increased in severity. When the Scotland they both drank whiskey very freely. Early on Friday morning they left Innerwell in Galloway for this port, with a quantity of salmon on board, and about seven o'clock the man who had begun to be ill on Wednesday and had been gradually getting worse, was affected by violent spasms in his limbs, and occasional vomiting, the purging continuing unabated. About eleven o'clock the same forenoon, the other man began to be affected in a similar manner to his companion. The boat arrived in our harbour at about two on Saturday morning, and about three the first man died, and the other continued getting rapidly worse. The lad then got on shore and roused the inmates of a public house on the quay, and the assistance of Mr. Wylie, surgeon, was obtained, though not until it was too late for assistance to be of any avail. Mr. W. took the most effectual means to arrest the disease, but the unfortunate person died about seven o'clock. Mr. Brown, the Guardian of the Poor, and Mr. Sawyers, the Comptroller of the Customs, as soon as they learned the occurrence, lost no time in taking the proper steps. The bodies were inclosed with quick lime, in shells, and interred in Trinity Church-yard by eleven o'clock. The boat which was described to us as disgustingly filthy, was thoroughly cleaned, and being stored with provisions and water, was by the same hour under sail for the Quarantine station at Liverpool, under the care of three men who had volunteered their services for that purpose. The names of the victims were James Heskett and William Johnston. The escape of the boy was remarkable, and can be attributed to no cause but his exemption from the excesses, which must undoubtedly have been the exciting cause of the disease, which terminated the existence of his elder companions. We are happy to state that we have heard of no similar cases either on board the shipping in the harbour, or in the town; but we trust that if a similar event should unfortunately occur, our townsmen will refrain from crowding down to the quay, and above all things, from going on board any vessel where such suspected cases may happen to be; their presence cannot possibly be of any service, and should the disease be really infectious, might be the means of serious mischief.

July 24. 1832 CHOLERA.

This day week, there was a meeting of the Whitehaven Board of Health, at which a good deal of discussion took place. Some doubt was felt whether the board was properly constituted, and the secretary was directed to write to the Privy Council on the subject. Inquiry was made of the medical men present, whether the Asiatic Cholera was in the town or not. The general opinion was, that there was reason to fear so; but the opinion was not unanimous. During the week, bowel complaints had been very prevalent, and eight deaths had occurred from diseases of that description, of which the symptoms preceding two, very nearly resembled those of Asiatic Cholera. The board adjourned to Monday, (yesterday) appointing Dr. Stanley and Mr. Dawson, to make up a report of all suspicious cases and deaths. On Monday the board met again. The two gentlemen named, reported that there had been fourteen suspicious cases during the week, and five deaths, of what appeared to be common cholera. They also communicated the gratifying intelligence that there had been no cases and no deaths during the two preceding days, so that, whatever the disease was, it was on the decline. They were of opinion that the mortality was not greater than frequently occurred at similar seasons, in similar forms of disease, and in any other year would not have occasioned any alarm.



CHOLERA MORBUS.

**A T A MEETING** of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of WHITEHAVEN, held at the Public Office, in Lowther Street, this Day, to consider of the Propriety of adopting Measures to prevent, as far as may be, the Introduction of CHOLERA,

The Rev. HENRY LOWTHER in the Chair,

It was unanimously Resolved,  
1.—That in consequence of a Communication from the Secretary of State to the Chief Magistrate, relative to the adoption of certain precautionary Measures against the Introduction and for the Prevention of Cholera, and also in accordance with the steps taken in nearly every Town in the Kingdom, a BOARD of HEALTH be established in Whitehaven.

2d.—That the Magistrates of the Town and Neighbourhood, the Clergymen of the Town, the resident Members of the Medical Profession, Messrs. J. Gunnison, Mark Wylie, sen., John Ponsombly, E. H. Heywood, John Hartley, W. Lumb, and the Trustees of the Town and Harbour, do compose, as Members, the Board of Health, with Power to add to their Number.  
3d.—That the Board of Health constituted by the preceding Resolution, be requested to divide the Town into so many Districts as they may consider convenient, and to appoint Sub-Committees of their Body as Inspectors of small Districts, who are severally requested to be watchful over the Health of their respective Districts, and in case of any Pestilential Disease appearing to report the same, without loss of time, to their principal Board, under whose Order they are to act.

4th.—That the Visitors of Districts be earnestly requested to pay particular Attention to the existence of any Nuisance whatever, and to report the same immediately to the Magistrates, who by Act of Parliament are empowered to order an instant abatement thereof.

5th.—That as the most effectual means for checking contagion is the Removal of the Sick from the Healthy, a respectful application be made to the Earl of Londale for the use of the old Fever House; and as diseases generally attack those who are the most subject and needy, that a subscription be entered into, to be applied to the removal of nuisances, and the Cleansing and White-washing of the Houses and Premises of such Poor persons as it shall appear to the visitors have not themselves the means of doing this effectually; and for such other purposes as the Board of Health may deem necessary or advisable.

6th.—That Messrs. Stanley and Dawson be appointed to correspond with the Board of Health in London, as necessity may require.

7th.—That in all Meetings of the Board of Health, Five Members shall form a Quorum.

8th.—That Mr. Jefferson be appointed Treasurer.

HENRY LOWTHER, Chairman.

CHOLERA—PUBLIC MEETING,

MONDAY, NOV. 28.

In pursuance of public notice, a meeting was held on Monday at twelve o'clock at the Public Office. The room was crowded with respectable inhabitants and influential country gentlemen. The Rev. H. Lowther, of Distington, was called to the chair. The Reverend gentleman read the requisition, and added that he and other gentlemen had prepared a set of resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. The Rev. Thos. Harrison proposed, and Mr. Dawson, Surgeon seconded the first resolution. The Rev. Mr. Fairlie proposed a list of names of gentlemen to form a board of health. Mr. Handleson proposed as an amendment, that all the trustees should be added and requested to co-operate; as his own name was in the list proposed by Mr. F. he felt the less difficulty in moving the addition of his brother trustees. The Chairman thought he had been guilty of an oversight himself, in not adding those gentlemen. The Rev. Mr. Scott, of Egremont, thought that it was very desirable that such addition should be made. Mr. Fairlie concurred, and the resolution was accordingly altered, and being seconded by Mr. R. Jefferson, was carried. The Rev. Mr. Scott proposed a third resolution, to the effect that the town should be divided into three districts, and six gentlemen, including all the medical men in Whitehaven, be appointed to inspect each district, and report to the medical board. He begged to add a few observations of his own. He thought there were too few districts, and recommended that these three committees of visitors, should, as the best judges of what was wanted, have the power of adding to their number and subdividing their districts. Mr. Jefferson enquired if the list included all the medical men. The Chairman said it was intended to do so. Dr. Falcon observed that the name of Mr. King was omitted. Mr. Perry suggested that it would be better if the Board of Health were to divide the town, and appoint inspectors themselves; that much inconvenience might follow from their being four bodies acting independently of each other. The Chairman said this plan had been proposed after the example of other towns. Mr. Scott thought that they would all form one body together. Mr. Perry thought that it would be better for them to be added to the board by the resolution. Mr. Thompson, Surgeon, thought that these committees should report daily to the board, and that they should be considerable sub-committees of the board of health and responsible to it. Mr. Westray thought that the committees were not sufficiently numerous, and that it was desirable that the medical portion should be added to them, in order that the more guard against the inconveniences that might arise, in case there was a difference of opinion between them and the town.

to second an amendment on his own proposition, but he thought that the board would not be treated with sufficient respect if the appointment of its own officers were not left in its own hands. The Chairman disclaimed any intention of disrespect; he had but followed the precedent of other places. Much conversation took place. The Rev. Mr. Jackson thought the board should newly be considered a body of reference. Dr. Falcon thought the appointment ought to be left with the board. Mr. John Gibson thought by the original proposition the town would lose the benefit of the services of many gentlemen in the harbour trust, of much leisure and influence, and who were not on the visiting list. Mr. Perry thought it would be anomalous to appoint a board of health and the officers of such board at the same time. Mr. Heywood read the circular and proclamation received by the Magistrates. Mr. Perry appealed to him, if by that document, the details were not left wholly with the boards of health. Mr. H. assented. Mr. Perry read the resolution which appears in the advertisement; Mr. Handleson seconded it; and the original proposition was withdrawn. Mr. Thompson, surgeon, rose to make a few observations before the motion was put. He doubted the propriety of throwing the whole power of the town into the hands of the board; and he thought, that by not appointing the visitors, and dividing the town now, much time would be lost. In all other towns the public had been consulted on these points, and the different districts, and visitors named. The board of health should be a mere board of reference. He moved that this part of the business should be entered on instantly. Several gentlemen expressed their dissent from Mr. J., and Dr. Stanley thought that there was no such hurry; that Mr. T. spoke as if the Cholera were actually in the town, or at all events within a day or two's march of it; that there was no such imminent danger, that it was very doubtful if the Cholera would get here at all, and that at all events a day or two was no object. Mr. Perry's motion was then put and carried unanimously. Mr. Hartley, of Gillfoot, moved the fourth resolution, to the effect that the board should be requested to pay particular attention to the cleanliness of the town, and to report any nuisances to the magistrates, who were empowered by law to abate them instantly. Mr. Thompson again objected to the delegation of such extensive powers to the board. Mr. R. Barker, jun., thought that this delegation of the powers of the town to a responsible and competent body was just what was wanted. Mr. Perry thought that it was quite regular to constitute a board, and to recommend proper steps to it. Mr. Barker, sen., observed that the slaughter house was considered, he believed justly, a great nuisance, and expressed his entire readiness to co-operate with the town for its removal, and recommended the naming a committee for that purpose. Mr. R.'s proposition was received with much applause, but the consideration of it just then deferred. Mr. Hartley's resolution was then put and carried. Mr. John Brown suggested that persons should be appointed to keep vagrants out of the town. Mr. Heywood thought that it would be impossible to effect that object, while the inhabitants persisted in encouraging vagrancy by giving alms. Mr. Brown suggested that the Fever House should be put into immediate requisition, and prepared for the reception of cases of Cholera. Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, thought the Fever House very unfit for the purpose. Mr. Handleson thought that a subscription should be raised, and part of it set apart for a soup kitchen. He observed that the trustees of Mr. Piper's charity had boilers, &c., for making soup, and the means of distributing a certain quantity, and he thought such an addition to their funds advisable, as it would enable them to begin sooner, continue longer, and give more. It was finally agreed to be left to the board, with the understanding that they were at liberty to make that application of the funds if they thought fit. Resolutions for applying to Lord Londale for the use of the poor house, and appointing Dr. Stanley and Mr. Dawson to correspond with the board of health, were then carried. Mr. Perry now moved, in pursuance of the object with which the meeting had passed his former resolution, that the names of the gentlemen proposed as visitors should be added to the board. This motion was not put, an understanding being entered into that the board should make the addition proposed. The Rev. W. Jackson proposed that the business of the board should now commence by immediately soliciting subscriptions from the persons present. While this was going on, a debate, of which we cannot possibly give more than a bare outline, took place on the contagiousness or non-contagiousness of the Cholera. Dr. Stanley thought that Cholera was decidedly non-contagious, and that the danger to be apprehended from it was much overrated. Dr. S. entered into some interesting statistic details, to support his views. The chairman thought, that whether the disease were contagious or not, the government, which, we were bound to suppose possessed the best information on the subject, had recommended certain preventive measures, which it was the business of the meeting to carry into effect. Mr. Thompson addressed the meeting at great length; he replied to Dr. Stanley, and brought forward much fact and argument in support of his view of the case, which was, that Cholera was contagious to a certain degree—that it was first merely epidemic, & then assumed the contagious type. Mr. Thornburn thought the great majority of medical men were of opinion, that the disease was not contagious, and that much mischief would be done by diffusing unnecessary alarm. Mr. Handleson here observed, that, as the chairman was very unwell, it might be proper, in the first instance, to effect, if possible, an arrangement, respecting the slaughter-house, before the chair was vacated. Mr. Barker said he was well aware that this question would arise; that it was a matter for consideration, whether the alteration should be effected by the trustees of the harbour, as trustees, or by a public subscription. That every pains was taken to render the place as inoffensive as possible. Should it be the opinion of the meeting, that its removal ought to be effected, he would be ready to state his views to the board of health,