thigh and leg should lie on the injured side, with the thigh bent on the abdomen, and the leg on the thigh. It is very important to note—a fact too often overlooked—that he called to his aid splints, which he tied loosely, it is true, but which he rendered much more efficient by having of such length as to include both the joint above and the one below the seat of fracture, very justly inveighing against splints which do not fulfil this condition.

[To be continued.]

33, Stanhope Street, London, November 1854.

METEOROLOGY OF CHOLERA.

By J. A. HINGESTON, Esq.

NO. VI.

IN continuation of my last paper, I resume my account of the weather during the prevalence of cholera from Aug. 14th to October 28th inclusive. The direction of the wind was almost invariably N.W., N., and N.E.S. Its velocity was very small; but so uniform was its direction, that, if the vane veered round to the S.W., it was but for a day or two, and then it returned to the N.W. or N.E.S. directly afterwards. A double current of air frequently moved in contrary directions, particularly on the 23rd and 24th of August; the uppermost being S.W. by W., and the lowermost N.W. by N. The S.E. winds have prevailed along this part of the coast much more than usual; and it is a chilly, damp, and unhealthy wind. In the non-choleraic years, the S.W. winds prevailed, with a good deal of rain; and these are healthy.

I agree with Mr. Glaisher that the *cirrus* clouds have been rare this summer. Between the 14th of August and November 16th, I find, on referring to my diary, that I have noted *cirri* on not more than eight days, separately. The *mackerel sky* has been frequent at noon, accompanying the sun for three or four hours in his meridian height. Occasionally some black smoky-looking clouds have floated up from the N.W., and gone out to sea, dark and lowering. Amber-coloured sunsets have been frequent, such as fore-run a heavy gale from the S.W.; which, however, has never arrived. The mornings, whose dawn I am fond of watching, have been highly picturesque, with gilded strati, and a tender light, beaming across the ocean, grey and motionless, as the daylight broke. If anything be sublime, the mornings of the late summer have been so. The temperature has been, as Mr. Glaisher reports, almost invariably above the average.

Out of the seventy-five days, between the 14th of August and 28th of October, rain fell on twenty-one, leaving fifty-four without even a drop of moisture. But the dews were heavy. Rain fell plentifully on Oct. 6th, Sept. 14th, and Aug. 24th; and there were showers on several other days between the 13th and 20th of September, from the S.W. or S.E. The quantity of rain fallen is much below the average. There was no hail throughout the whole of this period. There have been many lunar and solar halos; but upon the coast this phenomenon seldom indicates anything more than the rising of a sea-mist, which is very capricious.

Thunder and lightning have been rare. Sheet lightning was visible at times, and small electric cumuli came into sight, but dissolved as soon as they arose. About the 26th of October, heavy piles of clouds, with lightning and distant thunder, hovered upon the horizon, a long way out at sea; but nothing came near the land.

When the S.E. wind has been blowing a long time, with a cloudless sky, a small darkish cloudlet forms in the eye of the S.W., and remains stationary there for some hours every day. This little cloud is the forerunner of a gale from the Atlantic. It is most likely the focus or axis of a gyration of wind at the point where the N.E. meets the gale from the S.W., forming a condensed nucleus of vapour. It is the same as the small white cloud that presages the

typhoon in the China seas; which is a cyclone of terrific force and magnitude, except that, judging from the difference of colour, the one in the China seas is *positively*, while this in ours is *negatively*, electric. This little cloud appeared in the west throughout the second or fatal week of September, this year, predicting (to my mind, at least) the decline of the disease as soon as the wind should shift round to the S.W., which came to pass in the third week of September, when it blew a half gale from S.W., and the disease began to diminish.

Though the atmospheric changes do not account for the fact of the cholera, yet the co-existence of cholera with recognised meteorological phenomena is, to say the least of it, a most remarkable circumstance. Thus, in the third week of September, when both the barometer was falling and the disease declining, the greater number of *fresh* cases bear date on 21st and 23rd of that month, on which days the mercury rose from 29.840 to 30.123. See Registrar-General's Return, selected cases, for the weeks ending 23rd and 30th respectively, and compare the dates with the Meteorological Tables at the end.

Throughout the last year, there have been many causes favourable to the development of disease. A scanty harvest, bad wheat, a scarcity of vegetables, an unhealthy condition of fresh meat, a deficiency of water, owing to the want of rain, numbers of small black flies, mildew or fungi; add to all this, the dearth of provisions, and a relative deficiency of nutrition among those classes of the population, which need it the most, but have the fewest means of procuring it. These causes must have operated in the production of the disease.

It was in the month of March last that I noticed the lateritious deposits; but it was not till this November that I had an opportunity of seeing them again. This appearance and disappearance of the lithates corresponds with the commencement and the departure of the disease. If I am correct, this circumstance is a curious one. I think I have observed the skin to be colder, and the flesh more flabby, than usual. There has been an absence of phlegmonous disease. Erysipelas, scarlatina, debility, and a tendency to sloughing, characterise the autumnal illnesses. Perhaps the aspect of the population has been sickly, with a look of languor and dejection.

Brighton, Nov. 18th, 1854.

CASE OF DIFFICULT LABOUR FROM HYDROCEPHALUS.

By JAMES B. PROWSE, Esq.

I HAVE read with much interest, in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL of October 13th (p. 921), a communication by Dr. J. G. Swayne of a "Case of Difficult Labour from Hydrocephalus" in a primipara, aged 20. The case merits the attention of all interested in the practice of midwifery; and I think it will be of some importance to give the particulars of the following case of labour.

The mother was a primipara, aged 38. When sent for on Monday, the 9th of September, I was informed by the nurse that the membranes had been ruptured; however, as there was very little uneasiness, I left. When I returned (the same day), there was no apparent progress except that (as was reported) the liquor amnii continued to be discharged. The case went on in this way until the 13th at 3 A.M., when the symptoms and pains of more earnest labour were manifest. I then found, on examination, that although the os tincæ was not much dilated, the waters continued at intervals to escape.

The labour was a good one; for although slow in all its stages it was not protracted beyond twenty-seven hours after the commencement of the second stage; probably the first stage occupied a considerably longer period. The patient was delivered on September 14th, at 5 A.M., of a living child whose head measured seven and a half inches