

Medical Matters.**CHOLERA INOCULATION.**

IT is beyond all question that, whether the anti-vaccinationists or anti-vivisectionists approve or disapprove, there is a growing belief in the medical world in the advantages of the principle of inoculation as a preventive measure rather than as a cure for disease. It has taken us practically a whole century to apply the principle of Jenner's discovery to the treatment of other infectious disorders, but, during the last decade, immense advances have been made in this direction. India is at present the battlefield of the Cholera inoculation controversy, and no unprejudiced and scientific mind is probably prepared at the present moment to assert dogmatically that this question is settled one way or the other. Dr. Haffkine, to whose invaluable labours reference has on more than one occasion been made in these columns, has, for three years, been inoculating Europeans and natives, and even if it be admitted on the one side that failure has undoubtedly resulted in some cases, and on the other that the methods being novel are probably susceptible of improvement, the broad fact remains that a large mass of statistics are now rapidly becoming available upon which it is possible to form at any rate a provisional opinion as to the advantages and usefulness of the system as a preventive against the most dreaded disease of Oriental countries. These facts are so important and interesting that it would be well also to place them on permanent record for the information of Nurses in this journal. Briefly, then, it may be said that in Assam, between October, 1894, and July, 1895, Dr. Haffkine inoculated between 11,000 and 12,000 coolies. Returns have not, unfortunately, been secured with regard to the whole of these cases. A Government circular was sent to the managers of tea estates on which the operations had been performed, requesting them to furnish particulars of the number of coolies on their estates who had been inoculated, as well as a comparative statement of the deaths that had taken place among inoculated and non-inoculated coolies between the period of inoculation and

December 31st, 1895. A majority of the managers were public-spirited enough to comply with the request. There were nearly 29,000 coolies on the estates visited by Dr. Haffkine, and of these 7,507 were inoculated. Among the inoculated coolies there were 63 admissions and 28 deaths from cholera up to the end of 1895, the admission rate being 8.39 and the death-rate 3.73 per thousand. Among the 21,443 non-inoculated coolies in the same gardens there were 260 admissions and 150 deaths from cholera, giving an admission rate of 12.13 and a death-rate of 7.00 per thousand. "The admission rates among inoculated and non-inoculated coolies were thus," says Dr. Stephen, "in the proportion of 8 to 11.5, and the death-rate among inoculated coolies was somewhat more than one-half of the death-rate among coolies who were not inoculated."

Dr. Haffkine's opponents may object to these results as being small. It is, to say the least, remarkable that they should declare themselves upon every occasion on which the inoculation has been tried. The figures just quoted are above suspicion; they are furnished by independent and unprejudiced persons whose great aim is to keep their coolies strong and healthy, and who certainly would be the last men to permit their employées to be tampered with if the effects were so fatal as has recently been alleged. The experiments at Margherita on Khasi coolies by Surgeon-Captain Hare, who was left in charge of the inoculations when Professor Haffkine took his departure from Assam, tally with those of Dr. Haffkine's inoculations, and are even more favourable to the system. On October 17 last year, Dr. Hare inoculated 196 out of 355 coolies at Margherita. Between that date and November 6th four inoculated coolies were seized with cholera, and died. Among the non-inoculated coolies there were thirty-four cases and thirty deaths during the same period. The results may be summarised thus: The admission and death-rates among the inoculated coolies were both 20.41 per thousand; among the non-inoculated the admission rate was 213.84 per thousand, and the death-rate 188.68.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
 You can tell it by its Dainty Fragrance.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)