
TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY MALAY
QUACKS.

The following strange letter from Cadiz appears in the *Nouvelliste* of Marseilles:—The city of Cadiz is at this moment in a state of great agitation, on account of extraordinary events which are taking place there. The cholera, since the commencement, has made numerous victims; but the inhabitants are for the future without apprehension, owing to the miraculous cures effected by Indians and Malays recently arrived from the Philippine Islands. The way in which these men act is this—they place the person attacked on the back, and uncover the breast and abdomen; then they effect friction in a way which they alone know, and which they continue until they feel beneath their fingers a small round substance, which they force to the centre of the epigastrium, and which they then pinch forcibly as if to crush it. They retain the substance in the same position until the patient has taken a cup of tea, into which they throw some drops of a liquor prepared by them. An instantaneous cure is effected; and the patient only requires to take a walk in the open air to be completely recovered. The operators affirm that in very rare cases two of the little round substances are found instead of one, and that then the evil is incurable. On the eve of the day preceding that on which I write (the 29th August), 87 persons confided to the Malays and Indians have all been saved; and the cures have been effected in the presence of numerous witnesses. The same has been the case with all persons whom they have treated. A man who was being conveyed in a litter to the hospital, and who was in a desperate state, was treated in the street by one of the men. In a few minutes the miracle of a cure was accomplished in presence of a large crowd; and when this was done the operator dismissing his patient said, 'Go, you are cured!' The litter returned empty to the hospital. In a tavern, the same operator, whilst reposing from the fatigues of the night, cured in a few minutes a little girl who was carried to him in a dying state, and whom it was considered impossible to save. The men pretend that the cholera, which prevails continually in their country is cured in a few seconds by their process—which, however they keep secret. They state that the malady is caused by small worms created by the state of the atmosphere attaching themselves to the heart, and that they kill them when they crush the little round body which they force to descend from the region of the heart to the epigastrium. The Malays accept no reward. The government has formally authorised them to visit the persons attacked by cholera. They are five in number, and the Administration has placed at their disposal all means necessary for multiplying their cures.
