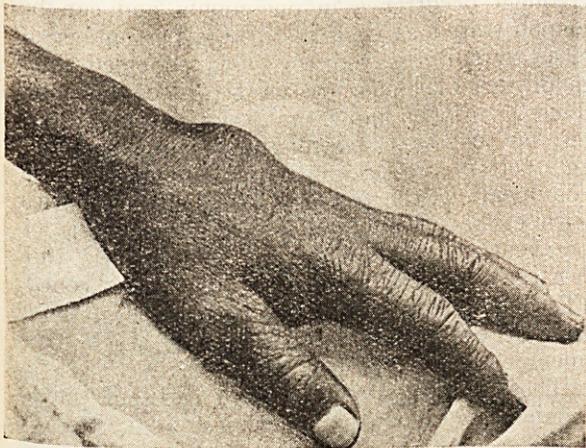


nerve. If the disease in this nerve is chronic in nature the swellings continue for a long time. On the other hand I have seen a case in which they appeared suddenly at the same time as a leprous reaction in the median nerves of both hands; as the reaction passed off after a few days the ganglion-like swellings also subsided.



I have not yet had an opportunity of investigating the histology of this condition, and am unable to say to what extent it is due to involvement of the tendon sheaths and to what extent the intercarpal joints are affected, but apparently the condition is due to the latter.

Similar swellings are sometimes noticed in the region of the ankle joint; these occur also in the nerve form of leprosy.

### MARRIAGE FESTIVALS AND THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

By S. L. SARKAR, M.A., L.M.S. (Cal.),  
Civil Surgeon, Noakhali.

THE sanitary consciousness of the educated section of the people of this country is being gradually developed. So it may be of benefit if medical officers report instances showing how the habits of people help the spread of cholera epidemics. The following is an illustration, for the materials of which I am indebted to Dr. Nabin Chandra Das Gupta, the medical officer in charge of Joyag dispensary.

There was recently an "epidemic" of marriages in this province. In this connection there was a wedding in the village of Joshna. The guests collected a few days before the date of the wedding. The people of villages are not in the habit of reserving tanks exclusively for drinking water. However, in ordinary times, the human contamination of a tank is slight, and the tank water has the chance of purification from organic impurities caused by bathing, etc., by the natural process of exposure to the sun's rays, and to a certain extent by the oxidation of the impurities. But the case is otherwise when too many people

collect in a village and use the tank both for bathing and drinking purposes. Moreover, when there is a collection of people in a village, there is a chance of a carrier arriving from outside. It appears that something of the kind happened in this case. On the 24th February, which was the day of the marriage, two of the guests were attacked with cholera and died on the 28th.

The occurrence of cholera cases in the village did not cause the postponement of a second marriage in another house for which guests also collected. Two of the guests died of cholera on the day following the wedding in this house also.

A married girl, who was a guest in the latter house, on the 2nd March went to a distant village to her father-in-law's house. On reaching this place she developed cholera and died on the 6th March. A relative went to attend her from a neighbouring village on the 3rd March and, on returning to his home on the 6th, fell sick on the 7th and died of cholera on the 9th March.

### FOREIGN BODY IN THE EAR A CAUSE OF PERSISTENT HICCOUGH.

By M. ABDULLA, L.M.&S. (Hyd.), L.C.P.&S. (Bom.),  
Medical Officer in charge, Municipal Hospital,  
Vaniyambadi, North Arcot District.

IN citing this peculiar case of persistent hiccough I wish to emphasise the advisability of thoroughly examining each and every organ that is supplied by the vagus and phrenic nerves, and their various minute branches. Hiccough is sometimes very distressing and may sometimes end in death, not of itself, but by the secondary effects it produces.

Hiccough is a symptom and not a disease, and it is produced as a result of sudden contraction of the diaphragm and glottis subsequently. These contractions are brought about by certain irritant factors. Through the phrenic nerve the diaphragm is made to contract, and through the vagospinal the glottis. In addition to these, numerous peripheral irritations produce hiccoughs, working through the numerous centripetal paths. As a general rule thoracic and abdominal organs, that are mainly or partly supplied by these nerves, are generally at the bottom of the mischief. Hysteria or neurosis, tabes dorsalis, uræmia, and chronic degenerations of the medulla oblongata are rare causes. Meningeal, auricular, pharyngeal and cardiac causes are still more rare, and a foreign body in ear as a cause of persistent hiccough is unheard of.

Mr. M. S., Muslim, aged about 23 years, was suffering from persistent hiccough for about 18 days continuously. Many sedatives, both gastric and nervous, were tried with complete failure, and mechanical interference with movements of the diaphragm, e.g., nose, lips, traction of tongue, abdominal pressure, etc., did no good. Chloroform, brandy, spirits of ammonia, effervescing fluids, bromides and other known hypnotic drugs failed to stop the diaphragmatic spasms. Various injections