



Source 4

Task

- 4a** Where does he say the worst outbreaks of cholera took place?
- 4b** Where were there not many, if any, cases of cholera?
- 4c** How does he explain the differences?
- 4d** What does he believe were the causes of cholera?
- 4e** Do you think that people in 1848 had any better idea of the ways to treat cholera than they had had in 1832? (Source 1)
- 4f** If all the suggestions made in source 3 and 4 had been followed, would this have prevented an outbreak of cholera?

Source 4

In October 1848 this letter was written to the General Board of Health (set up by the Public Health Act 1848). The writer is describing the cholera epidemic of 1832 which he had witnessed.



I am obliged by his
 command, which I will
 bring under the notice
 of my associates.
 25th Oct. 48. C.
 Forwarded to Mr
 Austin

Cholera - influenced by bad and
 stagnant water which absorbs the poison.

202
 48.

24 High Street, Marylebone
 19th October 1848

My Lord,

When I did myself the honor to address a
 letter to Your Lordship bearing date the 29th August I adverted
 to the attention I had paid to the Cholera during the year 1832,
 and I now crave the indulgence of offering an opinion founded
 upon the observations I then made, which may in some measure
 serve to carry out the views of the Legislature.

Sea Port and other Towns in the immediate
 vicinity of Rivers and Canals, built on marshy ground, were
 principally visited by the Cholera, and it was remarkable
 that the supply of water at these places was obtained from
 ponds or sluggish streams, and of a very impure quality,
 whilst those on the adjacent hills or mountainous Country
 escaped its ravages. I noticed this fact more
 particularly in France, as the mortality was very great at

Calais

VICTORIAN BRITAIN

A Healthy Nation?

Cafais, St Pierre, Guines and St. Omer, but in the intermediate Country, being a succession of hills well populated and forming a circumference of many miles, there was not a death arising from Cholera. At the City of Bristol a fourth of which is built on the marshes through which the River Avon and the floating docks pass the cases of Cholera were very numerous, whilst the other parts rising to very high ground, and well supplied with spring water were very free from it.

It is now generally admitted by the Medical profession, and by other Scientific bodies that the Cholera is not contagious, but that the Atmosphere travels in a poisoned state, the inhaling of which does not produce Cholera, and my impression is, that it chemically infects exposed water in a quiescent state, and the poorer classes using such water as a beverage and partaking of it in their food are consequently the greatest sufferers.

The



The same places as in 1832 ^{it}no doubt will be revisited by the Cholera if there should not have been any improvement in the supply of water.

Stenches and noxious vapours will generate Typhus and putrid Fevers, but those caused I am emboldened to state will not predispose to the disease of Sporadic Cholera.

With the highest respect,
I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient
and very humble servant,
A. Perkins.

The Right Honble
The Earl of Portland

(PRO ref: MH 13/245)