

# Cholera epidemic hit the county in 1850

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patent medicine — sold at H. Lindley's establishment — was designed for another assortment of complaints — hysteria, dizziness, convulsions, nervous neuralgia, headache, nervous prostration caused by the use of tobacco or alcohol, insomnia, depression, softening of the brain, premature old age, barrenness and impotence. The amazing medicine was called Dr. C.E. West's Nerve and Brain Treatment.

The price of that marvelous remedy was \$1 a box, which was equal to one treatment, or six boxes for \$5. Lest the doctor's title not lend enough credibility to the mixture, Lindley's ad proclaimed, "We guarantee six boxes to cure any case. With each order received by us for six boxes, accompanied with five dollars, we will send the purchaser our written guarantee to refund the money if the treatment does not effect a cure"

**MORE PRACTICAL ADVICE** in regard to dealing with cholera came in the form of a long statement issued by the State Board of Health and printed in the Aug. 11, 1883, edition of the *Telephone*. It urged the use of disinfectants and cleanliness as "the best measure to prevent the spread of the disease."

The board's order reminded Monroe Countians that state law provided for the periodic cleaning of privy vaults, sinks and cess pools, the

removal of accumulations of decaying animal and vegetable matter, and the flushing of all gutters and drains. Other areas that were to receive attention were hog pens, "foul stables and unwholesome cellars."

**SHOULD CHOLERA** appear, said the board's statement, the following measures were to be taken: Isolation of patients, burning of coal tar and spreading of lime on streets, alleys and gutters.

Lest the warning of the board not be sufficient, the *Telephone's* editor published a grim reminder in the form of a letter from "CHOLERA MORBUS." It said in part, "The dirty, the lazy, the gluttons and drunkards may rest assured that I will find out their abode. I never fail to attack the constitutions of those persons who use quack medicines . . . If a man is industrious, cleanly, sober and temperate, I will not visit him."

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