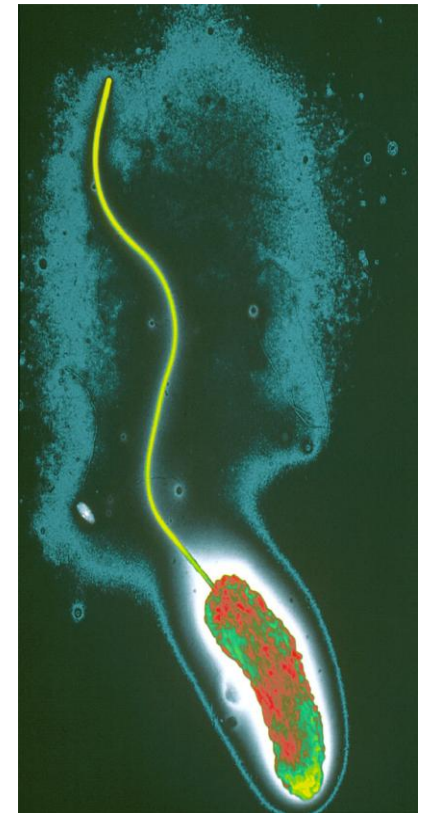


A diseased human nature





long with the fever
The cholera is still slowly on the increase. It has
been noticed in the Public Hospitals of New York City
that patients laboring under the Venereal disease, in
any form, are not liable to an attack of the cholera.



Argument

Gabriel Furman's journal Entry about Patients with venereal diseases being less susceptible to attack of cholera is unfounded and haphazard. Patients with venereal diseases would have their systems already compromised and it would only increase the pernicious nature of cholera.

Social and medical views towards venereal diseases and cholera were similar. Most people blamed the disease on the immorality of the affected people rather than the actual social problems. Since these diseases also affected a particular population, it was easy for the "moral class" to use the platform of religion to justify the suffering of the "immoral class". Gabriel Furman also falls into this category as taking a higher moral ground and most of his views are shaped by his belonging to this class.



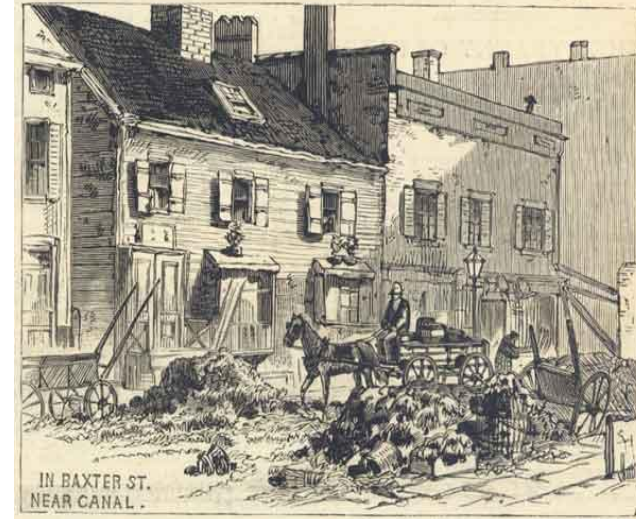
Medical Shortcomings

Since Cholera was a fairly new disease, the medical professionals didn't know how to deal with the epidemic.

There weren't a lot of practicing physicians around and those that were there were overworked.

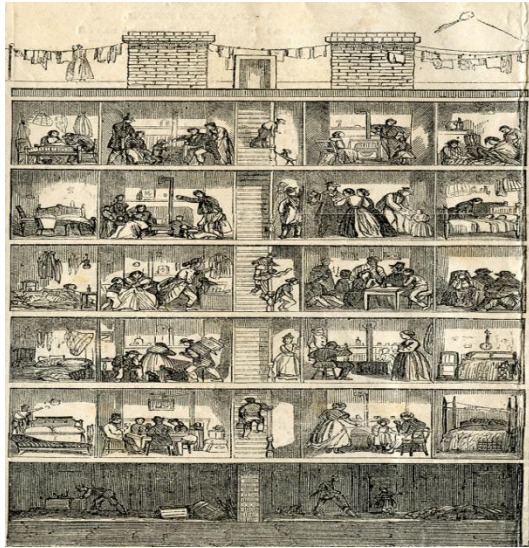
The medications used to cure cholera was often crude and not effective. Sometimes it only worsened the disease. In Gabriel Furman's case, he used opium which was believed to prevent the disease. This drug would ultimately lead to his downfall.

Factors Causing Cholera to Spread



- Unsanitary Conditions in the city were perfect breeding grounds for Cholera.
- “Corporation Pies” were names given to mountains of garbage that lay in the streets of the city

Factors causing Cholera to spread



- Urban areas were often overcrowded
- The water source was used both for sewage treatment and other daily activities. Only the rich could afford to buy fresh water.
- Unhygienic conditions only increased risk of people getting cholera.



Social Judgment of the diseases

“Poor man’s plague”-Cholera was confined to mostly poor or lower classes as they didn't have proper access to clean water. They also had no other choice than to stay in the city when the plague hit.

Anti-immigrant sentiments- Most Americans believed the cholera and venereal diseases was brought over by immigrants from Europe and blamed their social behavior for the plague.

Prejudice against African Americans- Americans believed that African American's “innate” nature invited cholera. Americans also believe that they were careless and due to their habits were affected with cholera.

Injustice against prostitutes- Prostitutes were looked at the vice of society and often put into jail for “carrying and spreading” around venereal diseases.



Religious Views

Consequence of Sin-There was a strong belief that this plague was sent by God to punish those who involved themselves with irregular behavior. “It was a reminder of man's mortality and of God's omnipotence.”

Americans believed that they were safe from the cholera as they were a “pious” and moral people. Even when cholera struck America, it strengthened that belief it was confined to mostly “the poor and filthy”.

There was a belief that “sexual excess” only was an invitation for cholera to strike the person.

People who caught venereal diseases were blamed for causing their own downfall and it was claimed it was God's judgment for their action.



Concluding Remarks

We can relate effects of AIDS in the modern day to the two diseases.

A certain population effected. Now mostly poor parts of the world.

AIDS doesn't actually kill but it only weakens your immune system.

Similar study was done in Bangladesh showing that spirochetes in the intestines only increases chance of getting cholera.

Science, Religion and Social Views in the 19th Century didn't have clear boundaries and almost interwoven. This would shaped Gabriel Furman's perception of the diseases.



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