The paper reviews the work of Dr Thomas Latta who during the cholera epidemic of 1831-32 pioneered the use of intravenous saline infusion in the treatment of cholera.

Abstract:

The paper reviews the work of Dr Thomas Latta who during the cholera epidemic of 1831-32 pioneered the use of intravenous saline infusion in the treatment of cholera. The reaction of the medical profession to this new therapy is described and the reasons for the profession’s failure to acknowledge the importance of this advance is analysed. The reasons why the name of Thomas Latta and his contribution did not survive his death in 1833 are discussed and the contributions of the twentieth century scholars in remembering his work are highlighted.

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