SYNOPSIS

Cholera

[kålˈər-ə]

From the Greek cholē for bile. Although the term cholera is now used only to refer to disease caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholerae, until the late 19th century any diarrheal illness might be referred to as cholera. For many centuries, medicine in Europe was based on Galen’s theory of the 4 humors in the body: blood, bile, black bile, and phlegm. Diarrhea and vomiting were interpreted as the body’s attempt to restore balance and good health by expelling excess choler thusly, “Your tongue will seem all rough, your appetite will seem in nought delighting.”

Sources:

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