CHOLERA THROUGH THE YEARS

Comma bacilli have been found,
It has been the talk of the town.
But Cornelius, who clowns around,
takes a microscope and looks down,
And says 'With that name I don’t agree,
'It’s only questionmarks I see.'

Nicolaas Beets, Poems 1884 – 1900.

Cholera - a horrible disease

At Athens, cholera seized a man, he vomited, and had diarrhoea and was in pain, and neither the vomiting nor the diarrhoea could be stopped, and his voice was disappeared and he could not move himself from the bed, and his eyes were blind and hollow, and cramps from the stomach held him, and likewise hiccup from the bowels. But the diarrhoea was much more than the vomiting. This man drank hellebore with an infusion of lentils; and he again drank an infusion of lentils, as much as he could, and after that he vomited. He was forced (to drink), and both (vomiting and purging) came to a stop for him. He became cold.

Hippocrates (460-377 BC), Epidemiai 5. 10