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Cover Legend: Death’s Dispensary, by George J. Pinwell (1842–1875), “FUN” magazine, 1830, etching (black and white photo). Cholera epidemics were particularly fierce in 19th century Europe. In England, the disease claimed 50,000 victims in 1831; in 1848, more than 70,000 people succumbed to cholera. The general theory of the time was that the disease was caused by “miasma”, an invisible airborne vapor. Historians claimed that rapid industrialization correlated with outbreaks of pestilence: crowded living conditions, absence of running household water, and inadequate waste disposal were the prime suspects. It was during the cholera outbreak in 1854 that Dr. John Snow, a London anesthesiologist, nailed the culprit. By use of statistical analysis, he identified a particular public water pump at Broad Street, Soho, as the source of contagion. By removing the pump handle, the local epidemic was contained. The illustration on this cover refers to Dr. Snow’s discovery. George J. Pinwell, a member of the Royal Watercolour Society and successful book illustrator, produced the etching for the journal “FUN”. The magazine catered to an educated audience and published satiric verses, literary criticisms, and topical political cartoons. The magazine sold for a penny and was sometimes called the poor man’s “Punch”. Thackeray called it “Funch”. However, the illustration on our cover is no laughing matter. It took half a century before modern plumbing, sewage treatment, and cordons sanitaires kept the continent free of cholera epidemics. In this issue, we learn that the ectonuclease CD39 enhances the survival of septic mice. Administration of adenosine-producing ectonucleotidases may prove superior to targeting individual adenosine receptors in treating abdominal infections. Image: English School, (19th century) / Private Collection / Bridgeman Images; text by Ann Weissmann, fine arts editor.