MUSKOKA.

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PART II.

BY JOHN B SPURR.

The physicist's attention is drawn to the fact that the soil, so thinly scattered over the rock, is productive when the heat of summer is sufficient to bake the earth and warm the rock below. This to a certain extent may be done but the economy of the lakes must not be overlooked in answering the question; for, with the evaporation of water there is consequently a humidity to the climate which favors the growth of vegetation on the sparse soil.

A humid climate is not always an omen of good health so we must seek other cause to account for the robust appearance of the population, of Muskoka. It is not satisfactory evidence to say that it is the country, for there are some country places whose statistics of health are not as favorable in proportion to the number of their inhabitants as those of the cities.

Muskoka is rich in forest and in most places, the deciduous trees predominate although at a glance the reverse seems evident owing to the height the evergreens attain over their more lofty congeners. Almost everybody knows the relation between plants and animals, how the heat and life of the body is sustained by oxygen, while the fibrous tissue of plants is greatly dependent on carbonic acid gas, and while both these elements are found in the air, the human body in respiration combines the carbon with the oxygen and in exhalation passes it off in the gaseous state. In plants the reverse takes place, the carbon is assimilated and the oxygen freed; at night however there is a slight reaction, hence the use of plants in a sick room during the day and their injurious effects at night.

Now in Muskoka where the vegetable is in excess of the animal life and the consumption of fuel limited, it follows as a matter of consequence that there will be more oxygen in the air than where the dense population and furnaces of cities are making carbonic acid and there is no antidote. In the former instance there is a copious supply of oxygen which is a heat producer and life sustainner, and