

that all the bedding shall be periodically removed from the dormitories and aired in the sun. It may be added that the immunity of the inmates of Abbotsford was not shared by those in kindred Catholic institutions, even though they were placed under similar excellent hygienic conditions except in the matter of sunlight.

An interesting and pregnant set of facts was supplied by the Kew and Varra Bend Lunatic Asylums, near Melbourne. One of these at the time of the outbreaks contained nearly 800, the other over 900 patients, including a number of idiot and epileptic boys and girls. At each Asylum resided families of children belonging to the medical officers, storekeepers, gardeners, and other officials. A few of these children at Kew were under the same roof with the lunatics, though in another part of the building, but the greater number lived in detached houses about the grounds. During the summer all the sane children, without exception, and some of the sane adults, were attacked with measles, but not one case occurred amongst either children or adults in the wards or cottages of the insane. The only possible cause I could discover for this sharply cut line between the sane and the insane was in the bedding. The general conditions affecting the two classes were the same, but all the lunatics except those on air, or water-beds had ticks filled with straw to lie on. These palliasses of the patients are not only exposed freely in the wards daily, and aired and dried in the sun as often as may be, but they are replenished with fresh straw once a fortnight. The staffs of the two Asylums, not having before them any obvious necessity for taking such measures in their own cases, followed the usual custom of the colony—kept their children's bedrooms cool and shady, and took no thought for the straw on which they lay. . . .

It is submitted that the foregoing facts strongly support the inference reached by Dr. Salisbury. All the evidence put together, however, is but negative, and that now given of course wants confirmation. On this point I would observe that any and every epidemiologist in any part of the world may readily test my observations by inquiring into the facts connected with the incidence of measles in his own country, or in his own locality. Whatever doubt or obscurity may cling to these and other cases in the past, existing and future outbreaks in England will enable the inquirer to clear up. I leave it, therefore, to others to elicit the truth in this matter, merely observing that the question raised involves questions of far larger and higher importance than the mere suppression of measles—although this of itself would be no small boon to some nations.

That there will be many objections to the simple view of the causation of measles here taken, I am aware. Most of these, probably, have occurred to me; but as I have found them easily surmountable, I need not enlarge this paper by referring to and meeting them. One difficulty, however, may present itself to the epidemiologist, which I feel called upon to refer to. It may be asked