

prove this. Twenty years ago, consumption was very prevalent among the British soldiers. A Sanitary Commission, consisting of men of the highest standing, after investigation, declared it was caused by overcrowding and want of ventilation. When more space in barracks and better ventilation were provided, on the recommendation of the Commission, the number of cases of this disease materially diminished.—(*Report of Army Sanitary Commission, 1858*).

Previous to that investigation, the cubic space per soldier, in barracks, of the Foot Guards, amounted to only 331 cubic feet, and the mortality from consumption was as high as 13.8 per 1000; while in the Horse Guards, the cubic space per head was 572 cubic feet, and the mortality from consumption was not greater than 7.3 per 1000. The disease had prevailed at all the stations, in climates the most varied, and the foul air of the barracks was the only condition common to all of them.

Evidence showing this same mode of origin of consumption is afforded by the statistics of two Austrian prisons, referred to by Dr. Parkes: In the prison of Leopoldstadt, at Vienna, which was very badly ventilated, there died in the fourteen years, 1834–1847, 378 prisoners out of 4280, or 86 per 1000; of these 220, or 51.4 per 1000, died from consumption. In the well ventilated House of Correction, in the same city, there were in the five years, 1850–1854, 3037 prisoners, of whom 43 died, or 14 per 1000; of these 24, or 7.9 per 1000, died of consumption. In both prisons, it appears, the diet and mode of life were essentially the same.

The Royal Navy and the civil population have afforded abundant statistical evidence similar in character to the above. Like evidence is also afforded by animals, as the monkeys in the Zoological Gardens, and cows and horses in close, unventilated stables.

Other lung affections, such as bronchitis and pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs), may reasonably be believed to have their origin in the breathing of respired air. There is evidence, indeed, which seems to fully establish this.

There is a MORE RAPID SPREAD OF SOME SPECIFIC DISEASES, such as small-pox, scarlet fever, and measles, and the plague, typhus, etc., in an atmosphere vitiated by the organic vapors and particles given off from the lungs and skin. This may, it appears, be owing to either one or the other, or all, of three causes: to diminished bodily vigor and powers of resistance to disease, from the defective nutrition following exposure to such an atmosphere; to the impurities in