

must come in for their full share of joint affections simply because they are supposed to contend with poverty and hygienic neglect. If this assertion had any show of correctness, it would imply that where we find joint diseases, there we ought to expect poverty and hygienic neglect. But clinical experience in a great measure contradicts the assertion. These affections happen in all classes of society. They do not pass the mansions of the rich, nor are the agricultural districts exempt from their visitation. Yet with all it must be allowed that there is, in the abject domestic condition of the industrial classes of Europe, a plausible reason for assuming that they are more subject to chronic derangements of nutrition than the wealthy portion of society. Nor can the action of such nutritive derangements upon local diseases be altogether denied. At any rate, our pathological associations tend to confirm this supposition; though it may be clinically difficult to qualify the exact measure of those constitutional colourings of local lesions. Those who have had the opportunity of personally investigating the actual social status of the European proletariat and pauperism agree that it is deplorable in the extreme. They occupy in cities the worst of dwellings, in the lowest of quarters; their rooms are overcrowded; their articles of food are of inferior quality; multitudes subsist from offal; their opportunities for cleanliness are limited and little resorted to; their very existence is a contest for the necessities of life. Many of the working classes and paupers domiciliate in places inaccessible to air and sunlight, in damp, and musty basements where but fungi thrive.* The combined effects of these unfavorable surroundings upon mind and body are so appalling to the humanitarian as to be remembered with painful sympathy. They give rise to the most aggravated forms of so called strumous disease with which the public hospitals and dispensaries are crowded. It is but natural to associate so conspicuous a morbid agency with a class of diseases seemingly devoid of other causes, and reacting heavily upon the nutritive standard of the patient.

In contemplating the financial condition of the same classes in the United States, we have no difficulty in finding an entirely reversed status. Here the demand for labour far exceeds the supply, and its compensation has therefore for years past been very remunerative, so as to furnish ample income to every individual who aspires to an honest living by handiwork. The "Trades Associations" have, under these circumstances, readily succeeded in controlling employers and in imposing upon them

* According to the latest statistics, 10 per cent. of the entire population of Berlin, live in cellars and basements.