

of the healthfulness of a locality, and it is a well-known fact that it abounds in those sections where bilious remittent fever is most prevalent.

Scientifically, the amount of aqueous vapor in the atmosphere is expressed by its absolute and relative humidity. The relative humidity exercises a powerful influence on animal and vegetable life. It is a well-known fact that the inhabitants of a dry climate are, as a rule, thin and sallow, while those living in a moist, insular country have well-developed figures and fresh, ruddy complexions. It is to the greater dryness of this country that we owe the peculiar physique of our people, which is so different from that of our English ancestors.

Hence such climates, although admirably adapted to the treatment of pulmonary diseases, are contraindicated in many nervous affections. This effect is observed even in healthy persons on their removal to a dry climate, or to one of considerable elevation, and exhibits itself in a certain degree of restlessness. Sudden changes in the relative humidity operate very sensitively in a diseased organism, their first effects being a sudden increase or diminution in the blood-pressure. Hence high altitudes, owing to diminished atmospheric pressure, even when combined with a high percentage of relative humidity, is similar in its effects to a dry climate with lower elevation.

The only attempt at a classification of climate, according to its relative humidity, is the rather unsatisfactory one of Vivenot, which is as follows:

1. Dry climates. { a. Excessively dry 1-55 per cent.
 { b. Moderately dry 56-70 " "
2. Moist climates. { a. Moderately moist 71-85 " "
 { b. Excessively moist 87-100 " "

According to this standard, Aiken would rank as a moderately dry climate. The mean relative humidity of Aiken is, however, less than that of any station east of the Rocky Mountains where hydrometric observations have been taken, and during the first four months of the current year was even less than that of Denver, Colorado. The spring is the driest season at both places, the relative humidity of March being lower than that of the other months.

In the following tables will be found a comparison of the relative humidity of Aiken and Thomasville with that of some of the large American cities, and of the leading health resorts in this and foreign countries:—

Comparing the mean relative humidity of Aiken and Thomasville during the six colder months with that of some of the larger cities in the United States.			Comparing the mean relative humidity of Aiken and Thomasville during the six colder months with that of some of the best health-resorts of the U.S., Europe, and Africa.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Aiken	57.9	15 moister than Aiken and 9.77 than Thomasville.	Aiken	57.9	24.6 moister than Aiken and 19.3 than Thomasville.
Thomasville	23.2	" " " " " "	Thomasville	63.2	" " " " " "
San Francisco	72.9	" " " " " "	Pau	82.5	" " " " " "
Charleston	72.8	" " " " " "	Davos	76.6	" " " " " "
Chicago	71.7	" " " " " "	Nice	71.0	" " " " " "
San Diego	71.2	" " " " " "	Merano	67.5	" " " " " "
Jacksonville	71.0	" " " " " "	Cairo	67.0	" " " " " "
Boston	69.8	" " " " " "	Ashville	63.8	" " " " " "
New York	69.8	" " " " " "	Cannes	66.3	" " " " " "
Cincinnati	67.7	" " " " " "			
Baltimore	66.3	" " " " " "			

This comparison, which is based upon the result of many years of observation, proves that Aiken is from 4 to 24 per cent. drier than all the other mentioned in the tables, and, as the list comprises all the well-known stations for which I have been able to obtain reliable data, Aiken may justly be ranked as *one of the driest health stations in the world*. I have been unable to obtain any information as to the relative humidity of Colorado Springs and Manitou, but, judging from the hygrometric conditions of other places west of the Rocky Mountains, these resorts are even drier than Aiken.

The average amount of rain at Aiken during the six colder months is 23.18. The rain-fall is greatest during the months of March and April, but even in these months it seldom interferes with the out-door exercise of the invalid. Of all the factors of climate, the rain-fall is the most misleading, the total amount varying greatly in different years and seasons. The quantity as measured in inches affords no criterion of the dryness of a locality, as a large amount may fall in a few hours, while a much smaller amount may be distributed over several days. Hence, at health-resorts, the duration of the rain-fall is more important than the quantity which falls. One of the chief objects that