

WEATHER AND HEALTH.—Sydenham, after bestowing much time and consideration on this subject, concluded that his time and trouble had been lost. Van Swieten, after keeping a record of barometrical and thermometrical readings for ten years, arrived at the conclusion that he was no wiser as to the effects of atmospheric variations on epidemic diseases than when he began. Ramazzini, after devoting considerable time and labour to the matter, said that he could see no constant relations between the changes of the atmosphere and disease, and was as ignorant as ever at the termination of his work. And the same may be said as to the investigations of Huxham and many others.

BACTERIA OF WHOOPING-COUGH.—Dr. Karl Burger, of Bonn, who claims to have discovered the bacterium of whooping-cough, regards these as being the cause of the disease, “because—(1) he does not find the bacteria in other sputa; (2) they exist in such proportion in the expectoration of pertussis that their influence cannot be doubted; (3) their number is directly proportionate to the intensity of the illness, whether in the course of the same or different individuals; (4) the symptoms and progress of the disease may be best explained by the development of the bacteria.”

PASTEUR'S "VACCINATIONS" A FAILURE.—The *Medical Times and Gazette*, May 12, '83, in discussing the experiments of Koch and Pasteur, states that the latter has utterly failed, on the scanty basis of his partial successes in the case of two diseases—fowl-cholera and splenic fever—to establish any law of immunity, still less has he made any progress towards realizing his dream of extending its application to the prevention of every infectious disease to which man or beast is heir. His operations are more akin to small-pox inoculation than to vaccination.

RELIGION AND STATE MEDICINE.—In France, the editor of the *Medical Gazette* remarks that true religion is the needful thing to prevent suicides. “Society demands religion. It constitutes an essential part of state medicine, without which individuals and communities tend to a condition of reckless irresponsibility, which ends in most cases in a species of mental and social anarchy. In our opinion, therefore, whoever attempts to loosen this anchor is an enemy to his own race.”