

But the dismal aspect of Pisa surpasses that of any other city or place in Italy, and is calculated to inspire the mind of the stranger with anything but cheering emotions.

Every object, animate or inanimate, within this melancholy town, seems stricken with decay or death. Although its population once numbered one hundred and twenty thousand souls, Pisa is now little more than a sepulchre. The solitude of its streets is such that many of them have echoes; and one might often ride round its walls without meeting a single person. Here and there the gaunt figure of some moribund invalid stands before the traveller, while viewing those few monumental relics of former greatness which Pisa still retains,—a dying foreigner vainly seeking, amidst these mouldering and silent walls, for some respite from a doom that is only hastened by the means taken to avert his fate.

If Pisa is not the "city of the dead," it is most assuredly the city of the dead alive; for who can walk through its streets, especially in the English quarter, without mourning over the traditionary delusion which has enticed so many natives of England to seek a renewed lease of life in a foreign country, find only an Italian grave.

Pisa is now, and has been for many years the great central depot, for foreign consumptive invalids, throughout Italy. The fame of its climate in cases of pulmonary consumption is universal, and quite equal to that of Rome. Yet, singular to relate, there is no other medical station in any part of the continent whose climate has been less carefully investigated by scientific men and concerning which there are fewer positive data derived from meteorological observation, than that of the far-famed Pisa. This seems the more strange, as Pisa has long been the seat, and, until very recently, of a university of considerable repute.

This climate is mainly indebted to tradition, and some vague unsupported statements, and random assertions, for its wide-spread renown. There is, however, one element in the composition of the Pisan climate pretty well ascertained, and admitted by writers of every shade, namely, that it is "horribly rainy." In fact, that rain forms one of the essential conditions of the climate.

The winter temperature of the invalids' quarter at Pisa is higher than that at Rome, yet Dr. B. shews that this warmth instead of being advantageous is positively injurious, owing to great atmospheric humidity and constant evaporation from the adjoining valleys, along the low swampy banks of the Arno and the collections of water scattered here and there over the Pisa plains.

The opinion of Dr. Burgess on the climate of Rome and Naples is thus summed up—that while the former, if mild, is sedative and depressing, and owing its mildness to malarious emanations, cannot prove sanative, particularly in a malady characterized by depression of the vital force and accompanied by vitiated nutrition—the latter is the most dangerous throughout Italy for persons suffering from affections of the respiratory organs.

Before concluding this lengthened synopsis of a work which we have great pleasure in recommending, because it is so extremely well written, so much calculated to enlighten the members of the Profession as well as the laity upon a subject which has hitherto not received from them that consideration to which it is so justly entitled, and containing inferences and directions based on the only sure data, namely, personal experience and vital statistics—we would take leave to correct one error, which has crept into his first Chapter, or "General Remarks on Foreign Climates;" but for which the author is not in the least responsible. Reference is made to a paper on the Canadian Climate which appeared in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* for May, 1844, by Dr.