

the tendency of consumption, and perhaps consumption itself in its incipient stages; but the violent changes are injurious when the disease is fully developed, or when the patient is far advanced in decay. This throws light upon what has been a vexed question, more particularly with us, owing to a somewhat loosely worded statement in the Papers for the people. To say broadly, that the climate of the Australian continent is generally favourable or unfavourable to the disease, is to say nothing; although, as the disease is advanced, there can be no great harm in trying a change of air.

It is a very rare disease, yet they suffer more from cough, or cold in the chest; and cold in the head, face, and throat, are not more common than in England. The climate is unobtainably said to cure dyspepsia; but the opposite is more often the case. It is especially so in the autumn, by the sudden change of temperature. These maladies, however, are seldom fatal. During summer, ophthalmia, sore lips and mouth, and bilious and irritable fever, occur; but the fever is not so violent as in the temperate zone, and is not so dangerous. Derangement of the liver is induced occasionally by the climate; which on the contrary, exercises a curative influence in disorders of the kidneys. It is hurtful to the circulation, and beneficial to the bowels. It is especially so in the autumn, as every potential epidemic has ever occurred in any of the provinces. The nervous system, however, is severely tried. Nervous debility is increased; the latest seeds of insanity, to all appearance, developed; and distressing cases frequently hurried by the heat to a fatal termination.

As some of the towns the mortality among the infants is great: while in the country districts it is less than in Britain. Children born in Australia, or transported thither in early infancy, arrive as healthy as those born in the temperate zone. Hastened into development by the general climate, a girl of fifteen has all the charms, and many of the graces of womanhood.

We come now to two statements, which, taken in conjunction, are somewhat extraordinary, and in a special manner, that we have before met with them in private letters from well-informed colonists. We give them in the words of our author: "Healthy natives of the British Isles, of both sexes, who arrive in Australia in the heyday of life, and amidst there, may expect to die about ten years sooner than they would, had they remained at home. Natives of Great Britain, either male or female, who have passed the meridian of life, will, in all probability, die ten or twenty years to their extension by the climate of the colony, and ending their days there."

These two statements would appear to be inconsistent. In the heyday—which, we presume, means the full maturity—of life, we are at our strongest; and if we cannot then die, we cannot die when our decline has commenced! Yet we have no doubt the statistics of death in Australia would bear our author out in the opinion he has expressed—and we have a little doubt that the opinion is entirely erroneous. The conditions of the climate are not healthy per se—that its vicissitudes and extravagances require to be met by the appliances of civilization. Now, the man exulting in his youthful strength, is just the person to resist the pernicious effects of the climate, and to die of it, as he is the person to expose himself to atmospheric changes unsheltered—who, in fact, feels and acts, as if his room of manure were his habitation. As the climate is not healthy, it is not healthy for the man who is not civilized. His condition has been irreparably injured, although silently injured; he dies before his time, and leaves behind him a family who are the victims of his weakness. Temperance, flannel next the skin, the avoidance of crude vegetables and fruits, and the use of colonial and iron water, and such like, are the means of preserving the young and the old, and the means of recovery.

These conditions, if it were to be said, are few and far between; but in the early stages of health in a country where 280 days out of the 365 are "indecently" pleasant, and the remainder, with only a few exceptions, much less disagreeable than our average weather in England—in a country where the cold of winter is 18 degrees shorter than in the point, and where the heat of summer is 18 degrees higher than in the greatest heat of summer; or a deluge of rain is a variety lasting for an hour or a day; at home, as we know by recent experience, we may be subject to all these attendant disturbances of the health and spirits.

We ought to add, that the subjects of climate and health occupy only two chapters of Mr. Lancelotti's book, which appears in other respects to be a well-considered and judicious treatise. It is written for the North or Tropical Australia, where the climate is so different from that of the temperate zone, and where the subjects of climate and health are so different from those of the temperate zone. It is a paper to say, that Mr. Lancelotti's book is not a treatise on climate, but a treatise on health, and that the climate of the colony is not the cause of disease, but the cause of health.

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abstract of the REVISED BILLS BY THE HON. MR. PALMER, UNDER THE LAND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1856.

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