

them being colored. The average floating or visiting population is estimated at 5,000, though this point is a difficult one to accurately estimate. Of course the large majority of these are invalids who come to recuperate their health. During the summer time the influx is from the south, and during the winter from the north and east and west.

Besides all these, there is another element in the daily visitation which is worthy of note—the mountaineers, or poor whites of the hills. They are a long, lanky, lean, lazy, taciturn set of people. With wide sombrero hats, old as the hills, clothes of all hues toned down by time to one color, with hands in pockets and usually without overcoats, they will stand for hours on the streets or around the market square. They and the laughing, garrulous negroes vie with each other in numbers, and all day long may be counted in scores, if not in hundreds. Without money and with nothing apparently to do, one wonders how they eke out an existence. But among the lowest elements of society in the south it does not require much to do that. The commonest foods are cheap—chickens are abundant, if not in your own yard, in that of your neighbor, and the elements deal kindly with all alike.

Then about the physicians. In this city of 20,000 people at the most, all told, there are sixty physicians in good standing, one of whom is a homeopath. We must remember, too, that the colored people, so far as paying a physician is concerned, are practically out of the question. Still the doctors live and dress well. They have their downtown offices and many of them own a pair of horses and have a colored driver, and attend swell parties and clubs, and banquets as well.

The climate of Asheville is believed to be one of the ideal ones of America. For nearly three hundred days in the year the sun shines. The rainfall is rarely severe, and is distributed pretty evenly throughout the year. The nights in winter are rarely very cold. Only occasionally is there severe frost, and never even in the severest weather does it continue many nights in succession. In the summer time the nights are always cool, and although the temperature may range high between 10 a.m. and 5 or 6 p.m., it invariably falls from that hour until the morning, ensuring comfort and rest for the sleeper.

Owing to the equability of rainfall and the comparative evenness of temperature, the relative humidity only averages about 65°, being about the mean between the humidities of New York and Denver, Colorado, the former being about 75°, and the latter 55°. When we add to this that the air is pure, and light and bracing, and that the temperature is such that tuberculous patients can take sun baths out on the verandahs