

obtained for years. As an illustration of exemption, I may mention that it was brought under my notice that in an hotel by the seaside, to which a number of children from the bush were taken by their parents, not one case of measles occurred throughout the summer, though the disorder was raging all around. On inquiry I soon ascertained that instead of the common palliasse each bed was supplied with a tick filled with material called "flock." Numerous instances of a part of a family only being affected came to my knowledge. In most of these instances I found either that the escapees had not slept on straw, or that, where they had, their bedrooms admitted the morning or mid-day sun freely. In one case a landlady of an inn in a village where several children had died was concerned about her only child, whose attack she expected daily, although the child had escaped for weeks after the local appearance of measles. Contrary to my first surmises, I learnt that this child slept on straw, and that her bedroom faced west; but I eventually elicited from the mother that, in view of the chance of infection from convalescent children taken to the inn, she had moved her child to a small room over a detached kitchen. The bed was close to the chimney, and the straw was thus kept dry. Groups of families in remote villages were attacked on the same day. A curious case was related to me by a medical friend. A boy turned a lot of musty canary-seed out of a box, and, shortly after playing with it on the floor, was seized with violent irritation of all the mucous surface of the air-passages, with coughing, sneezing, etc. This was followed by a rash over the forehead and face, and the boy passed through all the stages of a disorder which could not be distinguished from ordinary measles. Measles was not present in the neighbourhood at the time. Other cases of a similar nature, supposed to have been caused by bran, pollard, chaff, etc., came under notice, but they were more obscure, or closely associated with measles epidemics. They are referred to, however, as they point to injurious effects from mildews on other forms of vegetation than straw.

The Abbotsford Nunnery and Reformatory, containing between 200 and 300 females, more than one-half of them children, was remarkable on account of its perfect freedom from measles during the epidemic. Having obtained permission to inspect the dormitories, I found that the principal of these are long rooms, with windows unshaded by verandahs or Venetian blinds on three sides. The other minor sleeping apartments do not admit such a flood of sunlight, but they are all airy and sweet, and unusually light and bright for this country, where people, unfortunately for themselves and their children, exclude the sun from their bedrooms. All the beds in the institution were of straw; the blankets, etc., had been neatly folded up, leaving the ticks fully exposed. In every room the straw in these ticks rustled and cracked under the hand as only thoroughly dry straw will. This was no doubt partly due to a wholesome regulation mentioned by the Lady Superior, by which it is provided