

position for many hours, and are not unfrequently badly fed or intemperate. Nevertheless, allowing to the fullest extent for the injurious effects of all other agencies, there is no doubt that breathing air vitiated by respiration, has a most injurious effect upon the health. The æration and nutrition of the blood is necessarily interfered with, and the general tone of the system soon falls below par. The subjects soon lose their appetite, become pale, and fail in muscular strength and spirits.

OF SPECIAL DISEASES caused by rebreathing breathed air, it appears clear that SCROFULA—consumption being one of its most common forms, and even TYPHUS FEVER, are common. In the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, according to Dr. Murchison, jail or typhus fever was frequently generated *de novo*, solely in consequence of over-crowding and deficient ventilation in the prisons; and the disease thus generated, often spread from the court house—the ‘Black Assize’—where the prisoners were tried, to the surrounding population. So late as 1815, Harty showed that this disease was being constantly generated in the Dublin Prisons, or whenever these became overcrowded, as they usually did just before the periodical transportations to penal settlements. Regarding an extensive epidemic in Merthyr-Tydfil in 1870, Dr. Buchanan reported to the medical officer of the Privy Council, that it was true typhus fever, and he believed it due to overcrowding and want of ventilation in the habitations of the poor.

Baudelocque, a celebrated French physician, asserted long ago, that the repeated breathing of the same atmosphere is a primary and efficient cause of scrofula, and that hereditary predisposition, uncleanliness, want of proper food and clothing, cold and humid air, are by themselves non-effective. He says that invariably it will be found on examination, that a truly scrofulous disease is caused by breathing air vitiated by respiration, and that it is not always necessary that there should be a prolonged stay in such an atmosphere. Often, a few hours each day is sufficient, as sitting in a close school room, or sleeping in a confined bed room. Many of the pupils at a school in Norwood, England, some years ago, fell victims to scrofula, and on investigation it was concluded that insufficient ventilation, and the consequent atmospheric impurity, was the cause.

That most frequent cause of death, PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, is, without doubt, developed by respired air. A large amount of evidence has been collected from various sources, which goes to