

The effects of the Climate on Scrofula and Goitre.

There can be no doubt that the climate of Upper-Canada has a most powerful influence on the constitutions of those persons who show decided marks of a scrofulous diathesis; and that in families arriving in the country, with well-marked tendency to this affection, we will seldom see it manifest itself by any of the usual occurrences; their general appearance soon becomes altered, and the ailments they may have will be assimilated to those of the country. Scrofulous affections of the glands of the neck and of the joints are rarely to be seen; where diseases of the latter do take place, we find the appearances of common inflammation of the structures, and seldom those peculiarities indicative of scrofula.

Diseases of the lungs are, on comparison with European countries, very rare; when they do occur, their symptoms and course are the result of the effects of common disorganization of structure; they are without many of the prominent occurrences of Scrofulous consumption; and doubts might be entertained if that peculiar diathesis has the slightest connection with them.

The casual observations of many of my medical friends confirm these statements, but without an accurate register it is impossible to arrive at a certain conclusion.

The Goitre is decidedly an effect of the climate, and to be met with here and there throughout the whole country; emigrants soon after their arrival will be attacked with it. It is usually under the influence of some peculiar local cause, very limited in its effects, being often seen to attack all living at particular points, while others, at no great distance, and under the same circumstances, will be entirely free, but will become affected by a short residence within the circle of its local cause.

Particular points along the lakes and on the banks of rivers are certainly the chief seats of the disease, but it is not altogether unknown in the interior parts. I would not limit its origin to the use of water acting on a particular kind of limestone, though I have reason to think that something of the kind does take place, from the character of the localities in which I have seen it most frequently prevail.

Review.

Discourses delivered by appointment before the Cincinnati Medical Library Association, January 9th and 10th 1852, by DANIEL DRAKE, M.D.

We have perused these discourses with much interest and some profit. The author's larger work on the diseases peculiar to the North American vallies, which we have had an opportunity of seeing, as well as an occasional peep into the *Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*, some years before we ourselves became connected with the Medical Literature of this Province, prepared the way for a pleasant intellectual repast in the pages we have just closed. Our anticipations have been fully realized and, indeed, exceeded. Throughout the composition there