

society, that is, the rich. The working classes who form the bulk of the population live within a short radius of the kitchen stove on which all the cooking is done and consequently the atmosphere is supersaturated with moisture; those living in a flat still have their heat supplied from the kitchen stove; those in self-contained houses, or houses with two flats use a hall stove on which is invariably kept a kettle of water evaporating. The class using the old fashioned hot air furnace are fairly well supplied with moisture from a large evaporating pan inside of the casing of the furnace from which five or ten gallons of water are evaporated a day and carried with the air to all parts of the house. It would then seem that the expensive hot water furnaces of the rich are most responsible for this dryness in the air. One rich patient told me that all the members of her household were suffering from more or less discomfort in the nose and throat; and another feature was that the expensive furniture such as Japanese cabinets which had taken a workman a lifetime to glue together would after a series of explosions be found in a heap on the floor from the excessive dryness of the atmosphere. I advised her to have zinc reservoirs placed behind every radiator in the house and soon a change took place in the condition of affairs, but it took five gallons of water every day to replenish these pans. For myself I have taken a watering can and sprinkled the carpets before retiring at night when the atmosphere was very dry. It does not hurt them because they dry in a few minutes. I am a little surprised to hear that the outside air on frosty days has much moisture in it; I have always understood that with a temperature of ten to twenty below zero the air was devoid of moisture. The plan of keeping the windows open in severe weather is not practical as the danger of freezing the pipes is too great and even then the air though fresh is not moist.

G. P. GIRDWOOD, M.D.—There is not doubt that the question of relative moisture is an important one; in the summer time when the temperature is warm we may get the moisture up as high as 90 per cent. and even full saturation, 100; but in winter time we get the moisture frozen out. It is not a question of absolute saturation but one of relative saturation of the atmosphere. For myself and my household we sleep with a good many of our windows open and have always a current of fresh air from the outside. But still when the temperature is raised it is a long way below saturation. Supposing the temperature to be below zero, when this is warmed you will get a saturation of about 30. One method of increasing the humidity in the house is to hang up wet sheets here and there. For my own part I would say that the dwellers in tents suffer