

told by Coxe; that they are sometimes the offspring of healthy parents, whose other children are properly organised, and who are themselves free from guttural swellings. I know several goitrous females, married, whose progeny are properly organized and intelligent, and I also know two goitrous males, married, whose families are of sound mind.

"If then numerous cases of idiotism occur without goitre, and goitre without idiotism; if goitrous individuals produce a progeny having sound intellect, and if idiots are frequently the progeny of parties not idiotic or goitrous, as in the endemic before us, it must be allowed that the alleged connection betwixt these two affections, so often intimated by travellers, and which Foderé has endeavoured to establish, must be considered as more than doubtful and uncertain.

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 "By actual observation and experiment, Foderé has shewn that goitre and cretinism are most frequent in the deep alpine vallies, washed by torrents, having a marshy bottom and exuberant vegetation; he examined the atmosphere of these vallies with an hygrometer, and uniformly found the number of these unfortunates to be in proportion to the humidity of the atmosphere in which they resided. The vallies of the Pyrennees and the Appennines present the same features, and are attended with the same consequences: Sir George Staunton remarks that the high grounds in Tartary, where he noticed similar appearances, presented many alpine features; and Turner, more careful in his description, not only found these affections in the mountains of Bootan, but extensively in the woody belt which encircles their foot to a depth of from 10 to 20 miles, which forest abounds with marshes, from which originate the rivers flowing to the south. Pilkington also informs us that in Derbyshire, where goitre prevails, he perceives nothing peculiar but high lands, high winds, and heavy rains. Perlac, in Hungary, where Bright found goitre, lies in the low land betwixt two large rivers; and we are further told that the Hungarian peasantry have the crops frequently ruined by heavy storms of wind and rain. The statement before made of the ground where the idiots now introduced to your notice are found, shows analogous features; it is exposed to the accumulated force of the west and south-west winds, which prevail the most, and are frequently loaded with moisture; whilst a tract of marsh land lies at its foot, giving rise to three streams ultimately falling into the Irwell.

"These affections have been thought peculiar to hilly and mountainous districts, and it is true they are most frequently seen in such situations; in some of the instances alluded to, they are found in low grounds; but in all countries where they have been noticed, they have been attended with the concurring circumstance of a great humidity of the atmosphere."