

the East and the North American Indians seem specially liable to it; negroes are said to be practically exempt from it.

The influence of residence at a considerable altitude above sea level on the existence of this disease is worthy of note. In the city of Mexico, which has an altitude of 6,000 feet above sea level, trachoma is very rare. Good hygiene is not responsible for this exemption, because the hygienic status of the lowest classes in Mexico is of the worst. Neither does the influence of race account for it, for many different races are included among the lowest classes of the city of Mexico. The great elevation of the city of Mexico above sea level is thought to be the efficient cause of this exemption from trachoma (Chacon, *Gaceta Medica de Mexico*, June 1, 1902). Extreme dryness of the atmosphere at this altitude, causing desiccation of germ life, and a long exposure of the soil to intense sunlight, might singly or conjointly cause the destruction of the microbes of trachoma, which must find entrance into the city of Mexico as well as elsewhere.

This, however, is mere speculation. Orphanages there are in the city of Mexico, just as there are orphanages in New York or Toronto. Statistics showing the incidence of trachoma among the inmates of the orphanages in the Mexican city could be compared with statistics relating to an American or Canadian city. This seems a logical proceeding before one starts to formulate theories referring to the repression of trachoma in orphanages, or to indicate the best means of dealing with immigrants (children or adults), who are suffering from this disease.

Without being self-contradictory, the rarity of trachoma in the city of Mexico induces one to think that a suitable environment for the trachomatous immigrants of the United States or Canada could be found on the high plateaus of the Rocky Mountains. It would certainly be more reasonable to send trachomatous immigrants for treatment to some elevated location, 6,000 feet above sea level, than to immure them in detention hospitals by the damp seaside at New York or Halifax.

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