

influenced elevation, etc. Dr. Grimshaw also pointed out the relations between the prevalence of the forms of disease under discussion and the meteorological condition.

Sir Charles Cameron said it was remarkable that there seemed to be a greater prevalence of the diseases in question on the eastern than on the western seaboard.

Dr. Charles Moore observed that the drainage question was important in Dublin, where the subsoil water had greatly increased since the disuse of pumps.

Dr. Cosgrave adverted to the observations of Dr. McNeil, medical officer of the Gesto Hospital, Isle of Skye, who had found that phthisis was hardly met with amongst islanders until they went south to the large towns, from which they often returned to die of phthisis, and sometimes communicated it to the natives.

The chairman pointed out that the rule that large cities favored the prevalence of consumption found a remarkable exception in London, where the disease was below the average,

except in the eastern districts. The forms of pulmonary consumption and the etiology of the affection must be considered in regarding the apparently anomalous distribution of the disease on the English map drawn out by Mr. Haviland. Turning to Ireland, there could be no question but that the large towns acted as foci from which pulmonary phthisis seemed to spread.

Dr. Grimshaw, in reply, said that he was inclined to believe that drainage diminished the phthisis death-rate indirectly by improving the general health of the people, and by diminishing the prevalence of pneumonia and typhoid fever. The drainage of towns was not a question of the drying of soils so much as the getting rid of dirt and sewage matter.

How much was due to the drying of the soil itself or how much to getting rid of dirt it was impossible to say, or to explain which was the main factor of disease. With a perfect system of sewerage in Dublin and the dirt kept out of the Liffey, and a clean gravel bed in the centre, the public health would improve.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND SELECTIONS.

LIQUOR STATISTICS.—The chief of the U. S. Bureau of Statistics, in his recent quarterly report, furnishes the following facts, respecting the use of alcoholic liquors. In round numbers, the consumption of distilled spirits, domestic and imported, in this country, is shown to have increased from 43,000,000 gallons in 1840, to 72,000,000 in 1886; of wine, from 4,800,000 gallons to 22,000,000; and of malt liquors, from 23,000,000 to 642,000,000. The consumption *per capita* during the same period decreased, as regards distilled spirits, from about $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons to about $1\frac{1}{4}$ gallons: while it increased

as regards wines, from .29 to .38 gallons, and of malt liquors, from less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to more than 11 gallons. A statement is given by F. N. Barrett, editor of the New York Grocer, by request of the chief which sets forth, that the present average expenditure per annum for malt and spirituous liquors and beer at retail, is \$700,000,000. Mr. Barrett says the wholesale cost of the liquor, for which the retailers receive \$700,000,000, is not more more than \$300,000,000. He makes a brief calculation of the cost of liquors as compared with that of food, clothing and shelter,—reaching the