

seasonal conditions, become affected with measles which apparently occur *de novo*, as they cannot be traced to a previous case. 5. That where palliasses or straw mattresses are used in some only of the bedrooms of a dwelling, the inmates who sleep in, or who are exposed to, the atmosphere of such rooms may be attacked with measles, while those who sleep in the rooms free from straw may be, and frequently are, unaffected. 6. That when the straw in bedrooms is kept dry—whether by ventilation, by the sun's rays, or by artificial heat—the inmates of such rooms do not take measles when the disease is prevalent.

These propositions have been suggested chiefly by the papers of Dr. Salisbury and partly by data collected here. These latter are too numerous to give in detail, but I may briefly allude to a few cases in illustration. The Australian summer of 1874-75 was remarkably dull, cloudy, and moist. Shortly after this unusual weather set in, thousands of families in and around Melbourne were attacked with measles, and before long the whole colony was involved. The epidemic was more extensive, though not so fatal, as that in Fiji; still the mortality was such that it was publicly discussed whether national prayers should or should not be offered up for deliverance from the pestilence. I watched the progress of the epidemic, and took special pains to search into exceptional, strange, or irreconcilable phenomena connected with origin and propagation. The results are shortly as follows:—Every shade and variety of measles was represented, from the mildest *morbilli mitiores* to the most malignant *morbilli graviores*. At Richmond, a suburb of Melbourne, three children in one family, who were playing about one day, died the next from black measles. In the Ballarat district a virulent roseolous type prevailed. All classes were attacked without distinction, but the wealthier and cleaner orders suffered least. Numerous instances of relapses, or of second attacks, occurred in and around Melbourne. Several whole families were down a second time. Some diversity of opinion existed as to the precise nature of the latter affection. It was held by some to be a hybrid or spurious form of measles, but from all accounts it was ordinary measles modified somewhat by the previous attack. A lad of eighteen, the son of a leading physician, who had been twice before, in different years, affected with measles, was attacked for the third time in this epidemic, and very severely. Dr. B., his father, informed me that he had not observed any differentiation in the symptoms of the three attacks. Throughout the epidemic I could not discover any instance of measles in a dwelling from which damp straw had been excluded, but in every house where measles occurred the presence of damp straw in the bedrooms was easily made out. The case of Dr. B.'s son was peculiar in this latter respect. I learned from him that his son not only slept on a palliasse in a room with a southern aspect, but that the palliasse was placed upon, instead of under, the hair mattress, and that this reversal of the usual order of things had