

I must apologize for the meagreness of these notes, as when I began to use the remedy I had no intention of ever publishing anything about it. Having, however, mentioned a few of the details I have above given to my friend Dr. Lauder Brunton, he strongly impressed upon me the expediency of calling attention to the facts. I do not pretend to say how glycerin acts in these cases, though it is possible that both the diarrhœa and the constipation have a common cause. I will for the present content myself with the statement that in my hands glycerin has proved a valuable remedy, especially in the case of children suffering from diarrhœa or prolapse, and moreover that the injections are easily made, that they seem to cause neither pain nor discomfort, and that their beneficial action is very prompt and complete.—George Rice, M.B., C.M., Edinburgh, December, 1888.

#### CLIMATOLOGY.

Aiken, South Carolina, as a Health Resort.

Some months ago we referred to the climate of Aiken, S.C., in MEDICAL SCIENCE, and gave a résumé of the principal facts regarding this southern resort for consumptives. The accident of a trip south on a holiday has given us the opportunity of visiting Aiken, and experiencing for ourselves the truthfulness of the statements, which have given to this place its long, well-deserved reputation. We propose to avail ourselves largely of the materials which have for many years been collected by W.H. Giddings, M.D., who, forced through the illness of a member of his family to go to a warmer climate, has resided here for some nineteen years, and who through his work as a physician, specially devoted to lung diseases, has had an unusual opportunity for forming just conclusions on the subject.

Aiken is located on the southern border of what is known as the Sand-Hill region. It is about 565 feet above sea-level, and is the highest point within a radius of a hundred miles. It is 120 miles west of Charleston and 17 east of Augusta.

The Sand-Hill region in which Aiken is situated is a tract of sandy soil of moderate elevation and about twenty miles in breadth, extending through the middle portions of South Carolina and Georgia. Commencing in Chesterfield County, in the northern border of the former State, it extends in a south-westerly direction, until it reaches the Savan-

nah River at Augusta. Reappearing on the other side of that river, it crosses the State of Georgia in the form of a narrow strip, which terminates on the western border of the State. Consisting, as its name implies, chiefly of fine, loose sand, this region in its natural state is so utterly worthless for agricultural purposes that it well deserves to be called the "pine barrens," the name applied to it by many of the natives. But, although naturally so unproductive, the soil of this region contains a certain proportion of clay, which makes it very retentive, so that, by the addition of fertilizers, it may be made to produce valuable crops of cotton and other products. The subsoil of this region is very porous, and water is rarely found at a depth of less than 80 feet, and often it is necessary to dig 150 feet before it is reached. Owing to the porosity of the soil, water disappears rapidly from the surface, so that even the heaviest rains interfere but little with the out-door life of the invalid.

The inhabitants of Charleston and the planters of the counties along the coast were long ago familiar with the extreme salubrity of this favored region, and, as soon as the South Carolina Railroad was completed, hastened to avail themselves of Aiken, not only as a sanitarium for consumptives, but also as a place of refuge from the deadly malaria (bilious remittent or country fever) which rendered their estates uninhabitable during the warmer months of the year. As a proof of the healthfulness of the Sand-Hill region, it is stated in the "United States Census for 1880" that at Platt Springs, a little hamlet in the adjoining county of Lexington, there were in 1879 but two deaths out of a population of 853, and in 1880 only four, and that of these, three of the decedents were over eighty years of age. The sandy soil of this section, as well as that around Thomasville, is covered with forests of the long-leaved pine (*Pinus australis*) and black-jet oak. The former is remarkable for the large amount of resin it contains, and it is the "lightwood" of this tree which affords the bright, cheerful fires which are so attractive to the northern invalid. Whether these trees, by generating ozone or peroxide of hydrogen, really add to the purity of the atmosphere, is still an open question, but it is quite certain that the terebinthinate exhalations from the pine forests around Aiken are exceedingly grateful to pulmonary invalids. Although we may not be able to offer any satisfactory explanation of