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VOL. XXIII.

MONTREAL, JULY, 1895.

No. 10.

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HOME AND FOREIGN CLIMATES IN CONSUMPTION.*

Doctor Playter contributed a paper on " Home and Foreign Climates in Consumption," mostly extracts from a book on consumption now in the printers' hands, in which he contends, and quotes authorities to prove, that, in the present state of knowledge of the of our want effects upon the human functions of the various atmospheric conditions, change of climate is an empirical remedy having no theoretical foundation, and that acclimatization is a process, the possible injurious effects of which will often outweigh any benefit derived. In hardly one case in a hundred is such a change desirable, although change of locality is often essential.

A warm climate sometimes gives more comfort and prolongs life in advanced cases ; * Abstract of paper read before Ontario Medical Association. and occasionally in the early stage, a young man indifferent about his health may be sent to an elevated climate.

Theory and practice have taught us that what the consumptive needs, first, last and always, is more pure air, more oxygen, and this in its best, most invigorating form. This cannot be best supplied by a warm nor by a thin atmosphere. The consumptive, whether from heredity or hab't, is an imperfect breather. In the development of the soil for the tubercle bacillus imperfect respiration plays the chief part; all other causes are but remote and contributive tothis one-an imperfect respiratory function, which clogs the entire organism with the degree of imperfect tissue metabolism from want of oxygen.

In the decomposition of this accumulated effete matter, not only are inorganic, substances formed which constitute food for the bacilli, but possibly also organic toxines, which transform simple saprophytic bacilli into poisonous or virulent pathogenic organisms or infections, the analogue of