

spread. For this the voluptuous propensities of the women, and the concourse of sailors to these parts sufficiently accounts. Were I to attempt a description of all the modifications these assume, my epistle would swell to a treatise. I shall confine myself to one or two remarks:—

When such diseases are promptly met by proper treatment, they very readily yield to the simplest means of cure; but, if neglected, or ineffectually tampered with, they become both severe and obstinate. Strictures, connected mostly with the growth of large warts, and tumors in the urinary passages, are very common among females; and, for want of proper aid, have been very fatal. One man, when speaking on the subject, told me, and as a thing by no means remarkable, that he had thus lost two of his sisters. In the male sex, such strictures obstinately recurring, and complicated with affection of the bladder, are also frequent and difficult to treat. Deep seated, and very malignant ulcers in the throat, and other parts, with total derangement of the system, have carried off, and still carry off, many. But I believe there are few of these latter cases that would not yield to the persevering use of the appropriate remedies.

Of imported diseases, the measles was, some years since, one of the most fatal, sweeping off whole families. The large developement of the areolar and kindred tissues, for which the natives are remarkable, may perhaps explain this fatality. To the same constitution of body I am inclined to attribute the peculiar phases assumed by the small pox in its recent visitation, and by the cow pox, its preventative. I had sufficient opportunity to remark these, having been sent by the board of health of this island round the larger part of it, for the purpose of attending to the sick and vaccinating the well.

You have probably heard that this scourge made a fierce inroad on Oahu in 1853, beginning at Honolulu, the capital of these islands. By the returns, the number attacked was about five thousand; the deaths about two. In the other islands the deaths reported amounted to two or three hundred. It is suspected, however, that these reports fall considerably short of the reality, and from the returns of the census for the year 1854, not yet completely made up, it is calculated that the whole amount of the population will appear to have fallen from 80,000 in 1849 to 70,000 in 1854. The deficit mainly attributable to the small pox.

The mortality at Honolulu was, I believe, augmented, as generally in such circumstances is the case, by a sort of panic terror that seized the natives, and seems to have had its influence even on the medical and other authorities. What gave greater force to this, was the fact, that vaccination was no protection. Those native renders it not