

It cannot be otherwise than that the breathing of the organic affluvia arising from decomposing matter of this sort will cause more or less derangement in the bodily functions, especially in those who are not very vigorous; while in the more vigorous the disturbance might not be perceptible.

EFFECTS OF BREATHING THE AIR OF GRAVEYARDS.—On this we quote the following from Dr. Parkes: There is some evidence that the disturbance of even ancient places of sepulture may give rise to disease. Vicq d'Azyr refers to an epimetic in Auvergne caused by the opening of an old cemetery; the removal of the old burial-place of a convent in Paris produced illness in the inhabitants of the adjoining house. In India, the cantonment at Sukkur was placed on an ancient Mussulman burial ground, and the station was most unhealthy, especially from fevers.

The effect of effluvia from comparatively recent putrifying human bodies has been observed by many writers. Rammazzini states that sextons entering places where there are putrifying corpses are subject to malignant fevers, asphyxia, and suffocating catarrhs; Fourcroy remarks that there are a thousand instances of the pernicious effects of cadaveric exhalations; and Tardieu has collected a very considerable number of cases, not only of asphyxia, but of several febrile affections produced by exhumations and disturbances of bodies. Mr. Chadwick, and the General Board of Health, have also summed up the recent evidence, which shows that in churchyards thickly crowded with dead, vapours are given off which, if not productive of any specific disease, yet increase the amount both of sickness and mortality. In some instances, this may be from contamination of the drinking water; but in other cases, as in the houses bordering the old city graveyard, where the water was supplied by public companies, the air also must have been in fault. In the houses which closely bordered the old city yards, which were crowded with bodies, cholera was very fatal in 1849, and I was informed by some practitioners that no cases recovered. I was also informed that all other diseases in these localities assumed a very violent and unfavourable type.

EFFLUVIA FROM DECOMPOSING ANIMALS.—On this point there is some discrepancy of evidence. In 1810, Deyeux, Parmentier, and Pariset, gave evidence to show that the workmen in knackeries are in no way injured. Parent-Duchâtelet from his examination of the men employed at the knackery and slaughter-house at Montfaucon,