

interesting. Of late years, quite a "gold boom" has been in operation. Naturally, as in all other "gold booms," there has been a great rush to these parts of men of all stations of life, and many have left their bones there, as a monument to the unhealthy state of the country. For years the west coast has been called the "white man's grave," and to some extent the cognomen is a correct one, but, on careful investigation, one finds that the climate is not so bad as it is made out to be.

As the country is being developed, an increasing band of traders, miners, planters, etc., are populating the various settlements. This noticeable increase in the European population has called the attention of the scientific medical world to the great mortality due to the ravages of the malarial bacillus.

Recent investigations have led to a great following of the "mosquito theory," and every possible effort is being made to exterminate the pest.

All possible praise is due to those scientific men who have worked so patiently and endured so many hardships to prove that the mosquito is an important factor in the causation of malaria.

There can be no possible doubt as to the correctness of the "mosquito theory," but in this, as in many other important theories, too much stress is laid upon one point. The mosquito may be, and undoubtedly is, an important factor, but it is not the *only* factor in the etiology of malaria.

The climate itself, the diet, the isolation and associations of the resident on the west coast, are in my humble opinion the predominant factors.

To better understand the effect of these factors, let me briefly explain what they are:

I. *The climate* is very peculiar. The day during the dry season can be roughly divided into four stages:

(a). 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Here you have a clear healthy atmosphere with the temperature gradually increasing from 60° F. to 90° F.