

ther introduction or apology necessary, ere we introduce them, as we proceed now to do, to these Sanatory laws and constitutions themselves.

To be continued.

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ART. XVI.—*Medical Statistics of Prisons*. By A. VON IFFLAND, M. D., M. R. C. S., &c.

THE word Statistics, now so familiarly used by every one, was first employed, about the middle of the last century, by a professor, of Gottingen, to express a summary view of the Physical, Moral, and Political condition of States. Many important facts relating to this branch of knowledge had been published long before this learned appellation was applied to them; and many valuable essays, on the condition as regards the health of various countries, cities, towns, and hospitals, have been given to the world, without the authors of these insulated reports, dreaming that they were laying up materials for the important science of *Medical Statistics—a science, which, by demonstrating the existence of evils, may lead to a removal of their causes, and serve as a test by which to determine the success or inefficacy of the measures resorted to for that purpose.*

A mere register of occurrences, however, which does not tend to establish some general principle, is dull and valueless. Statistics should embrace a comparison between the value of life in ancient and modern times—progressive changes, and present state of mortality in this country—salubrity—Medical Statistics of the cities—of hospitals—of asylums for the insane—mortality of prisons—of the increase and decrease of disease—of climate—influence of various conditions, professions, and modes of life, on longevity—average quantity of disease attendant on particular pursuits—statistics of the sexes, &c., &c.

For upwards of thirty years, the principal Governments of Europe have paid much attention to statistics; and we possess very instructive returns from nearly all the counties, cities, hospitals, and prisons, on the continent. The public good appears to call for the regular publication, on an uniform plan, of the statistics of all our public Institutions, so liable to neglect and abuse as are many of them. For, independent of throwing much important light on the economy of different establishments—which cannot fail to be of great interest and utility—it is statistics alone which can give accuracy to our knowledge, and that confidence in our inferences, which nothing but the careful collection and analysis of facts can rightly confer.

It is not within my knowledge, nor is it, I believe, within that of others older than myself, that any attention has been paid to the hygiene of