

country. Abrupt and extreme vicissitudes of temperament are common during the winter months. The summers are usually very oppressive and characterized by protracted droughts. The late autumnal, the winter and early spring months are unfavourable to an active condition of the cutaneous perspiration, owing to the chilly and humid state of the atmosphere, which forms so remarkable a feature of the climate of the south-west. Hence, the vicarious office of the kidneys is often called forth, and a pre-disposition established to calculous disorders.

The prevalent diseases in the calculous regions, are intermitting and remitting fevers, neuralgia, pneumonia, dysentery, rheumatism and dyspepsia, the latter of which is exceedingly frequent in both sexes, and at nearly all periods of life. Urinary deposits of various kinds, especially the lithic acid and urates, are common.

How far, and in what respect, the developement of stone is effected by food, drink, occupation, and climate must, for the present, remain a matter wholly of conjecture. That they do exercise an influence, and that an important one, would seem probable, and yet no one has ever succeeded in determining its character, or the share which each of these circumstances has in the production of the malady. If the use of corn bread, herring and bacon induce stone in the bladder in Kentucky and Tennessee, why do they not cause it in Indiana and Illinois, where these articles are consumed quite, or nearly quite, as freely as in the former states? So in regard to climate, humidity of the atmosphere and the sudden vicissitudes of temperature are not greater in Kentucky and Tennessee than in her neighbours. Corn bread is wholly unknown in the calculous districts of Europe; and in the East Indies, where, according to Mr. Brett and other writers, stone in the bladder is sufficiently frequent, a "hoe cake" has probably never been seen. Besides, the negroes of the south live almost exclusively on corn bread, herring and bacon, and they are much less liable to disease than the whites of the same region. In Norfolk, England, where the disease is so frequent, its developement has been ascribed to the employment of the coarse dumpling, so common in that country; and in India to the derangement of the digestive apparatus occasioned by the constant use of unleavened bread and various kinds of varied sweetmeats.

"Causa latet," is as true of stone in the bladder as of a hundred other diseases, and it is therefore idle to speculate concerning it.

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