

tials, children possessing them will escape when the other three are absent, and children not possessing them will suffer when the three are present; the difference lying in this, that the former will yield to the causes much more readily than the other, and the disease be more likely to terminate fatally.

The influence of great heat is shown by the prevalence of the disease only when the temperature of the year is the greatest, and by the fact that as the scene of observation shifts to the higher latitudes, it diminishes and finally disappears. The influence of bad air in the production of cholera infantum is beyond question, and by air is not meant malaria, or an unintelligible something which is supposed to develop intermittent fever, but tangibly bad air from reeking animal excreta, piles of animal and vegetable *debris*, and the foul exhalations from human skin and lungs. It was an idea of former times that children were poisoned by sleeping with adults, and it would be well if the same idea prevailed to-day. In thousands of households, father, mother, and child sleep in an eight-by-ten box, called a room, without the slightest attention to ventilation; nay, rather with attention to guard against it, from the fear that the little being committed to their care may take cold. Ignorant and fatal kindness! The lungs must have their natural food, which is pure air, far more urgently than the stomach needs its natural food. A child can live a day or two without eating, but not five minutes without breathing. Pure air, it is no figure of speech to say, *is the breath of life*, and to starve the blood of this will prove more quickly disastrous to its healthy life than to starve it through the stomach. As in medical men ignorant of these facts, they bestow the most marked attention to the sustenance of the blood through the stomach, and little or no attention to the sustenance of the blood through the lungs. It is the medical fashion of to-day to direct that patients have an abundance of concentrated nutriment, with wine, iron and quinine, and pay no heed to the needs of the poor half starved lungs. Some medical men would be indignant if a spoonful of unwholesome food were given the sick, while they carelessly allow gallons of unwholesome air to be drawn into the lungs day and night. They apparently forget what ventilation is, thinking it is secured by a single small outward opening in a house, whereas a constant renewal of air can only be secured by two or more. It should never be forgotten that a gorged stomach is no substitute for starved lungs, and that healthy life under such circumstances, is just as impossible as it is for plants with their roots imbedded in a rich soil, but deprived of light, and kept in a stagnant air.