

should have lost; this was especially true of some cases of double pneumonia following measles in the adult. I invariably noticed that the recovery was quicker—the resolution went on with astonishing rapidity—and that there was a more vigorous play of the recuperative forces. I had similar experience with fever cases. Indeed I followed the plan of carrying my sickest patients out of doors, and leaving the convalescents to take care of themselves.

“I ought to say that this practice extended through the summer and autumn and well into the winter.

“ Ever sincerely yours,

“ C. R. AGNEW.”

Wherever we have the deadly influence of carbonic acid in the sick room, we have also an accumulation of organic matters which have been eliminated through the lungs and skin, which are unquestionably a dangerous addition to the air which is to be respired, especially in the case of zymotic diseases. We are not so well acquainted with the toxic properties of these excreta as of the carbonic acid, but for practical purposes it is sufficient to know that the measures which free the atmosphere of one will also get rid of the other. \* \* \*

The greatest obstacle to the growth of correct views on this important division of therapeutics is to be found in the faulty construction of houses and contrivances for warming. If we live at home in an atmosphere constantly poisoned by carbonic acid, we are not likely to appreciate fully its effect upon the sick. I trust that the presentation of such very strong illustrations as I have been enabled to offer, may aid in inducing a more earnest attention to the subject.\*

One word as to the tendency to the accumulation of carbonic acid in a room. The error often comes from a misapprehension of the means required to get rid of it. Experiments show that it is diffused through the air, and will be found pretty equally throughout any close room, except that it is in its greatest amount near the ceiling in an occupied room, simply because when exhaled it is warmer than the air of the

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\*It is not safe to reason from the well to the sick, to infer that the sick can tolerate an atmosphere that the well are often accustomed to. It is true that thousands of people continue to live, and without serious sickness for a time, in rooms largely charged with carbonic acid gas. In a condition of ordinary vigor the system may resist the deleterious influence for a long time, or become gradually accustomed to a lower vitality, or eventually develop some chronic affection. But the proportion of carbonic acid in the atmosphere that one in ordinary health could bear will be sufficient to aggravate materially the severity of an acute disease.