

in which calculous affections most prevail. Throughout the remaining parts of the union, they are comparatively rare. The same obtains, in England and on the Continent of Europe. In certain districts, the population suffer severely and extensively from calculus, whilst in others, an operation for stone in the bladder is seldom or ever witnessed. This proclivity, then, to calculous concretions being confined to persons inhabiting tracts of country, the geographical limits of which can be readily ascertained, one would infer that the causes of this disposition might be discovered in existing climatic differences, or in the peculiar geological formation of the place, or in the habits and manner of living of the people. Professor Gross has found, however, that there exists "no essential variations in any of these particulars," between those states which suffer and those which are exempt from these affections." "The food," he says, "of the inhabitants of the calculous regions does not differ from that used in some of the other states where the disease is more rare. The most common articles are wheat and corn bread, unleavened biscuits, potatoes, herring, tomatoes, cabbage, turnips, apples, and meat; with coffee, tea and milk at breakfast and supper. Corn bread and pork, fresh, salted and smoked, are consumed in large quantities by the negroes, as well as by the whites. Much of the food is taken hot into the stomach, as well as hastily, and consequently without due mastication. Many of the families, even among the lower classes, eat meat twice and even thrice a day. In the western and south-western States generally, a vast deal of poultry is consumed; eggs are also freely used; and there is, perhaps, no portion of the globe where milk enters more profusely into the diet of the inhabitants.

Lime water is used by a large majority of the people in the calculous districts; but, what is remarkable, it is as freely employed in other portions of the country, where stone in the bladder is altogether unknown, or where it exists only rarely. Malt liquors are not much used, except in our towns and villages. Our German emigrants consume large quantities of beer, and are, I am inclined to think, singularly exempt from calculous disorders. Ardent spirits, in the form of grog, juleps, toddy and bitters are very commonly used by the lower orders in almost every section of the country, and not a little is drunk by the higher and middle classes. The consumption of wine, varies in different parts of the union, but is probably, as compared with alcoholic drinks, nowhere very great. Cider was formerly a good deal employed, especially in several of the States, as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, but is not much in vogue as a table drink. The use of tobacco, is almost of universal prevalence among males.

The climate is essentially the same in the calculous regions of this