

of the city, causing a loss of \$2,000,000. The general appearance of the town is like that of Savannah, with however a rather more retentive soil, and when seen after a heavy rain, by us, having more mud on the streets. Fortunately for the cities, pure water can be obtained from springs and flowing wells; for underlying these sand barrens, is subterranean water in unlimited amounts, the dip of strata being eastward from the mountains in the western parts of Georgia. But away east by north we speed to our destination, Aiken, some sixteen miles from Augusta, on the South Carolina side of the Savannah. This is upland from 300 to 500 feet above the sea, appropriately called the "pine barrens." The red coloring of the argillaceous sand is everywhere in the railway cuttings, these being furrowed with the runlets caused by the waters from the hills above. It is in many places quite picturesque to see the hills with their furrows and denuded sides, shining red, brown and yellowish, even spotted with white here and there, as the amounts of coloring matter in the soil varies. But everywhere, whether over hills or through the valleys, is the same covering of whitish sand along the roads, or wherever the thin mould is worn off. Scrub-oaks predominate, but on the lower grounds, with a little more soil, pines grow in some instances to two, or perhaps three feet in diameter. Irregular patches, even quite large fields, are here and there seen, where the scrub has been cleared away and cotton or corn has been planted. But there are very few farms in the sense that we understand them in Ontario. One sometimes wonders what support the very considerable rural population, composed mostly of negroes; but when it is remembered that their lives are almost wholly outdoor, that each has the opportunity of doing a little farming, having a mule, if very little else, it will be seen that by cutting wood, etc., they manage to live and are healthy. This leads us to speak of the houses. The cabins almost invariably are built on brick supports, thereby leaving the floor one or two feet off the ground. When it is considered that this is done where the soil is so dry, from apparently some necessity, it makes the difference more striking when we compare this with the wooden houses in the north, especially the old log and frame houses in the country. Here there is almost no diphtheria; there, alas! we know too well what it has come to mean in Ontario. At

Aiken, and indeed all through this neighborhood, life moves on for the natives in a natural and uneventful, but eminently healthy manner. To-day, for the first time, we have had a severe cold snap, there having been some five degrees of frost. The old-fashioned fireplaces, however, and an abundance of oak and pine logs lend to the house-air a freshness and cheerfulness, foreign to your rooms with their hot-air furnaces and their base-burners. We are enjoying the evenings in such rooms, and the days in riding horses and playing at the exciting, though perhaps rather dangerous, game of polo.

If fresh air will invigorate, we are improving under it at Aiken.

P. H. B.

#### DELAYED DELIVERY OF THE SECOND CHILD.

To the Editor of MEDICAL SCIENCE:

SIR,—The following extract is taken from George Wood's "History of the Isle of Man," published at London, England, in 1811:—

"In the parish of Kirk Christ Sezayrê, one, Robert Cottier's wife was delivered of a child, which was baptized upon the Monday, and she came to be churched upon the Wednesday next after; and after returning home she fell in labor and was delivered of another child, and came to be churched upon the Saturday next after, in the same week. Churched twice in the same week! This I testify to be truth."—EDMUND CROW, MINISTER.

"I find by Chaloner, that in the year 1653 there was an Edmund Crow minister of this parish."

The interval which elapsed between the births of the two children is not mentioned, though the fact that the mother was churched twice in the same week is carefully recorded, it being natural that the minister would attach more importance to the ceremony in which he was personally interested. It is quite in keeping, however, with the narrative, to suppose that a week or more must have elapsed between the births of the two children.

In *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1814, we find the following:—"A woman was delivered on the 4th of March, 1814, of two children. She found herself so well on the second day, that she rose to attend to her affairs; but on the 6th she was again delivered of two more."