

nancy, parturition and the menopause, have no doubt much to do with the development and perpetuation of bronchocele.

The parts of the world in which it is endemic may throw some light on the etiology of goitre ; nevertheless, such discrepancies arise in any theory to be deduced from these, that but little reliance can be placed upon it.

In Europe, the Alps, Pyrenees, Carpathian Mountains, the Black Forest, Thuringia, the Hartz, Erzgebirge, Riesengebirge, are the localities in which goitre is most common according to Lücke ; and in America, the Cordilléras ; in Asia, the Himalayas ; whereas the mountainous parts of Norway and Sweden, the Highlands of Scotland and the Appenines are comparatively exempt. But there are plains where goitre is very common, as those of the Rhine, Silesia, portions of France, the Punjaub, the valley of the Orinoco, and the plains of Northern Italy, while our own Province, which is certainly flat enough, contains a very fair proportion of goitrous subjects. And just here I may notice one condition which has been enumerated as a cause, namely, the abundance of calcareous matter in the drinking water. Every woman that washes clothes or boils the tea-kettle for a lengthened period is certainly well aware that our Canadian water contains an abundance of lime salts, and hence, as goitre is not at all uncommon in our country, the drinking water may have something to do with it. Low sea-coasts are said to be the most free from this malady, although certain low-lying islands where it prevails are quoted as proofs to the contrary.

The disease has been observed amongst both the aborigines of the country and the negroes, but not to any great extent, so that these races, in this country at least, are almost free from it.

In the valleys and gorges of the Alps cretinism or idiotcy is frequently associated with goitre, and this condition associated with a diseased and useless gland opens up the question of its removal, which we shall deal with later on.

Mr. Bowlby, in his *Surgical Pathology*, defines the term goitre as "any enlargement of the thyroid gland which is not caused by inflammation or malignant growth." He adds further, "its causes have been much discussed and are not yet satisfac-