

with ; rickets, which the Germans still love to call, yet they cannot say why, the "Englische Krankheit," is scarce ; strumous ophthalmia, which is so constantly seen in the hospitals of Vienna, London, and Glasgow, is not frequent ; and in cancer, especially of the breast, the glandular system is not generally primarily affected, affording thereby a fairer chance of freedom from early recurrence of this disease. (I allude to this disease advisedly, as I observe that some of your more distinguished surgeons recommend removal of the axillary glands in all cases of scirrhus of the breast—advice which, from my experience in Canada, I am not disposed to follow.)

There are no surgical diseases in Canada which have not their counterpart in every portion of Europe—two alone excepted. When, in the words of Milton,

the parching air

Burns, frost and cold performs the effect of fire, frostbites are met with (among the non-acclimatized chiefly) ; and when snow covers the land, the *mal de raquette* is complained of by those who suddenly, and without preparation, are called upon to make long and hurried journeys on snowshoes.

It is true that, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick in Canada, a few lepers are met with in the lazaretto there ; but the disease is not indigenous to the soil. Nearly a hundred years ago two shipwrecked sailors were cast ashore at a place called Tracadie. They were the subjects of leprosy. A French-Canadian woman gave them shelter. In washing their linen she contracted that pitiless disease, and transmitted it to her children. These marrying, a small colony of lepers was formed. The number was at one time about seventy, but is now diminished to twenty-two, who are under the care of the sisters of charity from the Hotel Dieu Hospital of Montreal. But outside the walls of the lazaretto there is no disease peculiar to the country.

In connection with this subject I may

perhaps be permitted to quote the words I wrote some years ago, when dealing with this subject,—a work on the climate of Canada : " In considering the few diseases which in Canada afflict humanity, we have reason to be thankful to the All-Powerful Contrôller of the seasons as of our fate, that in separating us from the great branch of the European family, and in placing us where there are indeed no majestic ruins scattered around to prove past greatness or add to present interest, He has prepared for us a land where we may not only live in peace with all men, but in the assurance that no noxious exhalation will imprint its morbid impress on our countenance ; that no pestilential effluvia will enter our nostrils ; that no serpent will instil its fatal poison into our veins ; that with our breath we shall draw no plague into our blood ; and that, though He exposes us to much heat in our short summers and to a temperature in winter which pinches us till we cry out ' This is no flat-tery,' yet through our intelligence He keeps us in health, comfort, and safety. More than once during my professional career I have endeavored to map out one single disease or form of disease which we might claim as peculiarly our own, but so far I cannot boast of having made the discovery."

As acclimatization effects certain changes it affords also certain immunities from which those not similarly circumstanced cannot expect to benefit. The acclimatized bear injuries well. Living in a simple primitive state, they require only occasional aid from the surgeon, and even less from the physician. Colonists, in thinly settled districts, sometimes send long distances for surgical aid in cases of hernia or dislocation. The *ramacheur*, or *rebouteur*, as he is styled, who is supposed to have an intuitive knowledge of broken bones, and how best to replace them, is often in requisition. In dislocations, however, these irregular practitioners are less fortunate. And al-