

bility, nothing but a mere scrofulous enlargement of the thyroid glands, whose bulk is so much influenced by exposure to the cold and damp state of the atmosphere in which the patient lives; and the fact that men are scarcely not liable to it, corroborates in no small degree our conjecture; for we have good right to believe that the reason why men are less or not at all obnoxious to it, is that their necks are commonly not, or not so much exposed to the influence of external causes, besides having an almost constant pressure upon those parts, by their neck-handkerchieves or cravats, which pressure is well calculated to prevent the progress of the swelling. And besides, when men go at all bare-neck, they commonly are in violent exercise which keeps up and free perspiration, and which, in my opinion, is capable of preventing in a great measure, the morbid growth of those glands; whereas females, whose necks, at the great expense of both modesty and decency, are most usually bare or but very thinly covered, are known to be almost, if not quite exclusively subject to this burdensome tumour, which by impeding and even entirely stopping the functions of deglutition, but more specially those of respiration, often puts a sudden end to the existence of the afflicted. Thus if the atmospheric air is impure and impregnated with sand, dust or other foreign substances, a scrofulous patient exposed to it for some length of time, may have the scrofulous ophthalmia, or the scrofulous consumption of the lungs or both, as these organs besides being constantly in distention and motion, are always in actual contact with the atmospheric air, and continually exposed to the innumerable vicissitudes of temperature.— Thus, if an individual of the same habit, overstrain himself in lifting some heavy body, he may have a diseased spine. He may have it however without the last circumstance, as we have reason to believe that the daily exercise of the patient may be a sufficient cooperating cause to produce this