

satisfactory conclusion; and even admitting that such could be obtained, they would be valueless, inasmuch as the black man was not placed under the same circumstances of life as the white. The former, living in a state of bondage, was coerced to labour at the will of another, and was entirely dependant on the humanity of his owner for the privilege of exercising the promptings of nature or instinct—thus, under the vicissitudes of weather, through sunshine and shower, he performed his allotted task. The negro is also particularly fond of music and the dance, and many of them would walk miles at night to a carousal, and thus deprived of all rest, go to their daily employment with enfeebled bodies, and, therefore, more susceptible of dangers arising from change of weather. Neither morally nor socially, then, was the slave in an analogous position with his master; therefore the only comparison which could with any semblance of truth be instituted, would be between the slave and the brute—these latter being equally, with human beings, liable to the supervention of tetanus after injuries or operations—a puncture or bruise in the foot of the horse being very frequently followed by this terrible malady.

The surgeon, however, was not deterred from operating from a fear of locked-jaw alone carrying off his patients, but there were also other diseases frequently prevailing which were peculiarly dangerous and fatal to those who had undergone surgical operations, viz., erysipelas, dysentery, diarrhoea, &c., each of these diseases appeared epidemically, and were often extremely fatal. It may be urged by those who advocate the modern doctrine of a more rational humoral pathology, that our present immunity, not only from secondary dangers following operations, but also from these epidemic scourges, might be traced to a change of constitution, occasioned by the altered habits and modes of living of the late slave population; but if this was the only cause, our poor animals who were, as we have already stated, also susceptible of tetanus, angeleucitis, &c., ought yet to be sacrificed, since it is very certain that they have not obtained (except in a few instances) any marked alleviation of their condition, but have, on the contrary, been saddled with much of the labour and drudgery, which emancipation has removed from the descendant of Africa. That much is due to an improved system of dietary, we can have no doubt; and as the periods for the performance of labour are optional with the peasant, those hours are selected which best accord with his feelings and sensations. The labourer, by curtailing the hours allotted to field-work for the estate, has been enabled to devote a portion of his time to the exercise of domestic habits—he has generally a garden plot around his comfortable cottage, the cultivation of which not only occupies his leisure hours, but enables him also to procure many little homely comforts, and to vary his food as he pleases. Under slavery, it is true, that as a general rule, their food was plentiful and regularly served up, yet the slave was obliged to receive that which was given him, changed only by the market-price of the article, or at the will of the owner.

Nature points out to the negro the necessity of pre-

serving himself against the inclemencies of weather, and to be careful of sudden alternations of heat and cold. There is nothing that he dreads more than the night air, especially if there be a brilliant moon and a cloudless sky; for while in the noon-day at a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit, he sleeps on the bare earth, a stone for his pillow, and his eyes upturned to the full glare of the sun, on the approach of night he wraps up warmly, and shelters himself beneath an umbrella. Metcalf observes, “that the Africans when removed to the West Indies, where the maximum temperature is from ten to twenty degrees lower, are unable to obtain caloric from the atmosphere by respiration as fast as it is abstracted by the surrounding media, especially in the high lands, or during the prevalence of northerly winds, and early in the morning when the air is damp. The consequence is, that under such circumstances they are to be found shivering with cold, but never complain of the most intense heat of the sun, which is no less delightful to their feelings than conducive to their health.” This fact we have seen repeatedly exemplified by the black patients in our hospital, who frequently request permission to sit in the sun at midday, and we have as frequently seen those, who, from inability to leave their wards, have been compelled to remain within doors, cover up even their very heads under the bed clothes, the temperature of the air being anything but agreeable to a white person.

If, then, it be true, that the descendants of Africa are, above the rest of mankind, dependant for their health and comfort on the great fountain of light and heat, may we not derive much gratification by knowing that, besides the great moral excellence of emancipation, we have, by abridging the demands made on the physical capabilities of the negro, enabled him to follow the promptings of nature, which teach him to guard against changes of weather, and to shun the dews of night. It is now impossible to get the labourer to his work before sunrise—their race must be run with the sun—and the coming shower is avoided with much care.

Of all the sub-divisions of general philosophy, there is none so little entitled to the name of science as meteorology. Chemistry, with its innumerable resources, fails to discover in the atmosphere any deviations from its natural healthy composition. The thermometer and barometer exhibit no deviations from the ordinary standard of temperature or weight of the atmosphere, which are capable of affording information as to the origin or cause of many phenomena. We know absolutely nothing of the laws which control or regulate epidemic visitations, nor can we at all discover those which seem to regulate and govern revolutions—if we may employ the term—in the climate of different countries.

In some instances these changes are silent and perfectly incognizable to our eye or feelings, manifesting themselves only by a general improvement in the salutary state of the country, either in a greater mildness of the ordinary diseases of the place, or by the absolute annihilation of others which were previously en-