

an invalid has in view in going south is to be able to pass most of the time in the open air, and as this is curtailed by long-continued rain-storms, it is all-important to determine their duration.

Average rain-fall and number of fair days at Aiken for eleven years.

	Rain in inches.	Number of fair days.
January.....	3.64	19½
February.....	3.26	19½
March.....	4.86	21
April.....	4.71	23½
November.....	3.43	19½
December.....	3.28	20½
Months.....	23.18	123
Winter.....	10.35	19½
Spring.....	12.83	21½

In studying the rain-fall in connection with the out-door life of the invalid, it is also necessary to take into consideration the character of the soil. If the ground is retentive of moisture, especially if it be composed of admixture of clay, the walks become muddy after heavy rains, and hours, and perhaps days, may elapse before they become sufficiently dry to enable the invalid to walk out with safety and comfort. If, however, the soil is sandy and porous, the water disappears rapidly from the surface, and a few hours' sunshine suffices to dissipate all traces of moisture. This is particularly the case at Aiken, where, owing to the sandy nature of the soil and the absence of all moisture near the surface, the ground dries so rapidly, even after the heaviest showers, that all traces of water usually disappear from the surface within an hour or two, thus materially curtailing the time that the invalid is confined to the house.

At Aiken the prevailing winds are from the south-west, and are remarkable for their extreme dryness. Owing to the north-easterly trend of the North American coast, the north-east wind has to travel over hundreds of miles of the dry pine forests of North and South Carolina, and is thus deprived of most of its moisture before reaching Aiken. Hence, during the first twenty-four or forty-eight hours of the prevalence of such a wind, the atmosphere usually remains clear and bright; indeed, during some of our most delightful days the wind is from that quarter. Strangers occupying houses in an exposed situation are liable to form an impression that Aiken is a windy place, but this is readily dissipated by a walk through the

town proper. A year's observation with a Robinson self-recording anemometer shows that the average velocity of the winds is only three miles and a half an hour.

Direction and velocity of the wind at Aiken during the six colder months.

	Direction.	Velocity—average number of miles per hour.
January.....	S. W. & W.	3.77
February.....	S. W.	3.84
March.....	S. W.	3.79
April.....	S. W.	4.03
November.....	S. W.	2.55
December.....	S. W. & W.	3.04

On looking over the meteorological data as given above, we find that the climate of Aiken during the six colder months (November to April) is moderately cold and fairly equable, with sufficient elevation to insure good drainage and free circulation of air, that the days are fair during two-thirds of the season, and that the prevailing winds are from a dry quarter and of moderate velocity. The winter is short, commencing at Christmas and terminating early in March, the peach trees in Aiken being usually in full bloom by the end of February. Compared with Aiken, Thomasville is by a few degrees the warmer of the two, but, as regards humidity, Aiken is not only much drier than Thomasville, but the driest of all our health-resorts except those located in Colorado and New Mexico.

HYGIENE.

A Simple and Efficient Filter.

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For a long time I have used in my butler's pantry a simple contrivance for filtering water used on the table, which has been so serviceable and, at the same time, so inexpensive, that I venture to recommend it. I took an ordinary glass pharmaceutical percolator (A) and packed the outlet with absorbent cotton (B) so tightly that the water could only flow in drops. By means of a piece of copper wire (C) for a bale, it was suspended from a hook on the lower side of one of the pantry shelves, over the shelf of the sink. As often as is necessary, water is poured into the percolator, and the water-pitcher is placed beneath the outlet. Whenever the cotton shows much discoloration (a thing which