

sess a power which has not been for many years, we believe, exerted, the exercise of which would unquestionably be attended with very beneficial results; we allude to the appointment of a commission to examine into the qualities and purity of the drugs and pharmacopœial preparations sold in London. Adulteration of drugs is a practice very commonly pursued, and one moreover capable of exerting the most mischievous effects upon the public and also upon the profession; the formation of a board consisting of members of the College, or, at least, of well informed medical practitioners, associated with one or more chemists of established scientific attainments, would do much to reduce, if not entirely prevent, a practice so prevalent, and little less than criminal. In directing the manner in which vegetable extracts, and certain other pharmaceutical preparations, are to be made, it might not be unadvisable to procure the co-operation of practical men, for however conversant members of the College of Physicians may be with the sensible qualities and affinities of the different articles of the *materia medica*, yet it must be admitted that, with the pharmaceutical processes, they are practically but little acquainted. The newly instituted body of chemists and druggists constituting the Pharmaceutical Society might afford much valuable aid, many of its members being well and favorably known to the profession by the success which has attended their attempts to form pharmaceutical preparations, of less variable strength than those which not unfrequently result when the pharmacopœial processes have been adopted.

---

#### ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

May 16, 1843.

##### EFFECTS OF CLIMATE ON PHTHISIS.

M. Rayer read a report on a memoir by M. Boudet on the effects of climate in cases of pulmonary consumption.

The author had asked the following question:—Is phthisis a rare disease in Algiers, and is it much more rare in marshy countries than in other localities?

A few remarks will serve to point out the importance of this question. In an interesting memoir, recently addressed to the Academy, M. C. Broussais showed that the proportion of deaths from phthisis to the general mortality in the African army was as 1 to 102; whereas, in the French army, the deaths from this disease form one-fifth of the general mortality.

But, it may be asked, is this very great difference apparent or real?—May we not explain the slight mortality from phthisis by the great mortality of certain other affections?—Are the inhabitants as free from this affection as the military?—Does the law hold good for all parts of Algeria.

Numerous and important reports have been forwarded by the military surgeons attached to the African army, but they do not enable us to solve the above questions in a complete manner. M. Boudin,

one of the most distinguished military surgeons, thinks that the rare occurrence of phthisis in Africa is not a general fact, but is confined to the marshy border of the sea coast, where intermittent fevers and other malarious disorders prevail. Hence, M. Boudin, and those who adopt his opinion, say that two conditions should be attended to in the choice of a climate for the consumptive—viz, a mild temperature and a marshy (but not insalubrious) soil.

The facts adduced by M. Boudin in support of this opinion are worthy of notice.

The climate of Hyères has been long regarded as favorable to the consumptive, and it is known that the prevailing diseases of the place are those common to marshy situations.

Pisa, Parma, Rome, a residence in which is so generally recommended to the phthisical, are exposed to marsh, miasmata, and subject to intermittent fevers. Dr. Herineu, who passed eight years in the Ionian Islands, informs us that the rarity of phthisis is in direct ratio to the frequency of intermittent fevers; and M. Roux, a distinguished military surgeon, affirms the same relative to our own soldiers on the shores of the Morea.

Broussais says that, in the neighbourhood of Cadiz, inflammation of the chest and tubercles are extremely rare, the prevailing diseases consisting of abdominal affections and intermittent fevers. Dr. Green, of New York, affirms that at Whitehall, near Washington, where marsh fevers abound, consumption does not exist amongst the inhabitants, and that the phthisical patients who resort there are greatly and permanently benefitted.

From these and various other considerations the reporters think it right to advise that a statistical investigation should be made relative to the frequency of phthisis in dry and marshy situations, both in France, the North of Europe, and Africa. M. Nepple has shown that phthisis is rare in the marshy country about Bresse. M. Schönlein assures us that, in the delta of the Rhine, at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and in all the lower parts of Holland, where ague is endemic, tubercular affections are rare, while they are frequent in the dry sandy localities about Bruxelles, &c.

---

#### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

May 9, 1843.

The PRESIDENT in the Chair.

*Observations on the Medicinal Properties of Indian Hemp.* By JOHN CLENDINNING, M.D., F.R.S.

The author commenced his paper with general observations on the importance of narcotics, but especially of opium, in the treatment of disease. After having referred to numerous examples of the successful use of opium in acute and chronic disease, he adverted to the inconvenience occasionally attending the employment of opiates, especially to the derangement of the stomach and bowels and kidneys, and the vertiginous and other painful conditions of the nervous system they so frequently produce. He then stated that, in his experience, those inconvenient effects had occurred so frequently, and been found in many cases so difficult to obviate, without the abandonment o