

fair to draw the conclusion, that the procuring of gold was a heavy tax on such part of the linen trade as was carried on in it. Nor is there room for wonder that linens purchased for gold were not bought on lower terms...for the seller in almost every case did not gain what the purchaser lost. A few of the sellers had learned the trade of money-jobbing, and sold their guineas, but generally for much less than they cost the drapers... Others made little or no advantage of possessing guineas but parted with them to shopkeepers and others, without a full, and frequently without any equivalent...if the manufacturer parted with his guineas for yarn, it only removed these circumstances one step farther back...To show how little gold is wanted by the weaver to pay his rent, if demanded in that form by his landlord, let us suppose a weaver, who has a piece of linen, on an average once a week; estimating his piece at three guineas, he receives one hundred and fifty six guineas per annum, while the rent payable by a man in such a situation in life, will probably not exceed twenty, or at most thirty guineas per annum...With what propriety can he require to receive one hundred and fifty six guineas procured at a great expense by the purchaser, to provide for an annual payment of twenty or thirty?... Besides, if bank notes come into general circulation, guineas will bear no premium, or at most a very trifling one, and as the premium on them is lowered, they consequently become of less value to the landlord, and will be less eagerly sought for by him.

It is readily admitted that if bank notes are issued too largely, great disadvantages will arise to trade, as an extravagant issue, and a consequent extension of paper credit will injure trade by raising the prices of manufactures, and increase the expences of living by enhancing the price of the necessaries of life. But if the Bank of Ireland act prudently in their issues, they must necessarily check the inordinate issue of private banks as the notes of the latter are payable in Dublin in national bank notes.

In fine, the question is considerably narrowed...We have not guineas sufficient for general circulation, and cannot procure enough of them on any terms for the general purposes of trade...Let us consider then, whether under present circumstances we would not act wisely by simplifying our business, and bringing our payments to one standard...It has been tried in the greater part of this province, without producing disadvantages...and some of those who formerly held out longest against the introduction of bank notes for the payment of linens in the markets into which they have been introduced, are now strenuous for the adoption of them in those markets which yet hold out in a contrary practice.

Although in the foregoing view, the subject is considered mostly with reference to linens, yet many of the facts will apply to trade in general. The cotton trade is entirely carried on in a bank note medium.

MEDICAL REPORT.

INTRODUCTION.

In making a report of the diseases most prevalent in any country or town, it must be at least desirable to the philosopher, as well as the physician, to be informed what probable influence its situation, considered both geographically and geologically, together with the prevailing manners of its inhabitants, and the manufacturers most commonly exercised by them, may have, in giving origin to morbid actions in the human frame...Meteorology should lend its aid also, and as far as an accurate register of the barometer and thermometer can be useful in elucidating this intricate subject, it shall not be wanting. The quantity of rain together with the prevalency of particular winds, have not been determined with sufficient accuracy to enable the Reporter to take advantage of them.

The town of Belfast, containing upwards of 26,000 inhabitants, is situated in a fertile valley, where the river Lagan disembogues itself into Carrickfergus-bay, or Belfast-lough, and nearly on a level with the water...In digging foundations, various marine organic remains, viz. shells, &c. have been found near the surface...It is in Lat. 54° 46' north. Long. 5° 46' west, and is bounded on the north and east by Belfast-lough... To the westward, at about the distance of two or three miles, runs a ridge of bold, imposing mountains, composed of irregular basalt and limestone, whose elevation above the level of the sea, is, in some places nearly 1300 feet...On the south, the valley through which the river Lagan runs, extends to Lisburn, a distance of about seven miles in a direct line. From this valley, copious exhalations arise, in the spring, summer and autumn, which are so far innocent in themselves, as to be unproductive (as far as the Reporter's observation or information enables him to judge) of agues or many other dis-

eases originating from marsh miasmata. Indeed, intermittent fever is scarcely known here but by description. An opinion very generally prevails, that more rain falls in Belfast and its vicinity, than in almost any other place. This, with some modification, may, perhaps, be founded in truth; owing to the great evaporation from Belfast-lough, and the lagan on the one side, and from Lough-neagh, a fresh water lake exposing a surface of 97½ Irish square miles on the opposite side of the ridge of mountains already mentioned, whose "cloud-capt" summits loaded with vapour moisten the country to a considerable distance with frequent showers. Mercantile probity, and honest industry seem to be characteristics of a great majority of the people of this town; however, it must be acknowledged that luxury and all its enervating consequences are creeping in among the more wealthy classes; the middle ranks seem to live comfortably, neither cramped by penury, nor their bodily vigour unbraced by voluptuousness; and if they do occasionally indulge in any propensities which may be deemed injurious to the human constitution, it may be in the festivities of the table, or in the exercise of an opinion, that a quantity of ardent spirit (certainly too great) is absolutely necessary to promote digestion and ensure good health. The lower, or working classes of society are still more addicted to copious spirituous potations, and mostly in an undiluted state. The moral and physical effects of this vice, together with its fostering parent, the cotton manufactory, shall be considered more in detail, in a future report, and some hints proposed for its regulation, which at the same time that they will not curtail the emolument of the proprietor, may tend to lessen the sum of human misery in, and to rescue from mental and physical degeneracy, many thousands of both sexes. I shall now conclude this introduction already too prolix, with a quotation from the late and respectable Dr. Darwin, exhibiting in colours, not more glaring than true, the dreadful consequences of Bacchanalian indulgences....

"Some inebrieties have their paroxysms of inebriety terminated by much pale urine, or profuse sweats, or vomiting, or stools; others have their paroxysms terminated by stupor, or sleep without the above evacuations. The former of these inebrieties have been observed to be more liable to *diabetes* and *dropsy*; and the latter to *gout*, *gravel*, and *leprosy*.....Ivoo! attend ye Bacchanalians! start at this dark train of evils, and amid your immodest jests and ideot laughter, recollect,

Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.

x

Zoonom. vol. i. sect. xx. 5.

Belfast, 28th August, 1808.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from 28th July till 28th August.

Barometer....highest.....	30	40	Thermometer...highest	75	60
mean	30	39	mean	69	43
lowest	29	70	lowest	61	6
<i>Synocha</i>	3	An inflammatory fever ... not infectious.			
<i>Synochus</i>	6	Of a mixed nature, between typhus and synocha.			
<i>Typhus mitior</i>	3	Nervous or common infectious fever.			
<i>Erysipilas</i>	1	Saint Anthony's fire or rose.			
<i>Ophthalmia</i>	5	Inflammation of the eye.			
<i>Variola</i>	2	Small-pox.			
<i>Rubeola</i>	3	Measles.			
<i>Psora</i>	5	Itch.			
<i>Herpes</i>	3	Ringworm, tetter, &c.			
<i>Hydrocele</i>	1	Dropsy of the coats of the testicle.			
<i>Icterus</i>	1	Jaundice.			
<i>Asthma</i>	3	Asthma, or shortness of breath.			
<i>Dyspepsia</i>	3	Indigestion.			
<i>Asthenia</i>	4	Nervous debility, mostly the consequence of intemperance.			
<i>Cholera Morbus</i>	3	Excessive vomiting and purging.			
<i>Dysenteria</i>	3	Bloody flux.			
<i>Diarrhœa</i>	2	Looseness or liquid stools.			
<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis</i>	1	Consumption of the lungs.			
<i>Syphilis</i>	6	} Venereal diseases.			
<i>Gonorrhœa</i>	3				
<i>Mania</i>	1	Madness.			
<i>Morbi Infantiles</i>	30	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.			