



DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

Deel XI.

ZATURDAG den 3den MEI, 1823.

N. 18

Gedrukt en Zaturdag's morgens uitgegeven by WILLIAM LEE, Drukker voor Zyne Majesteit den Koning der Nederlanden.

April 24, 1823.

FOR NEW YORK.

The Netherlands brig.

ANNA ELIZABETH.

W. HAMILTON, Master.

Having the greatest part of her cargo engaged, will sail in two weeks from this. For Freight or Passage apply to the Master on board, or to C. L. PARKER.

WAARSCHOUWING.

DE Raad Fiscaal diverse klagen ontvangen hebbende omtrent het forseren der passagies door de stegen aan de Overzyde met ossenkarren, en hierin willende voorzien, doet by deze elk en een ieder wie zulks aangaat waarschuwen en verbieden; om met zoodanige karren de kleine stegen te passeren; terwyl ingevalle na gedane waarschuwing zulke egter door de voerlieden worden getenteerd; de blanke ingezetenen zullen vermogen de karren vast te houden, en hy die dezelve voert ter Fiscaal laat te brengen; zullende de meesters voor hunne slaven moeten instaan, ten opzichte van alle schaden door gezegde passagie aan de huizen of trancken aangebragt.

De Raad Fiscaal dezer en onderhoorige Eilanden, RAMELMAN ELSEVIER.
Curaçao, den 28sten April 1823.

Fiscaal's Kantoor, den 2den Mei 1823.

DE ondergeteekende als daartoe door den Weledelen Achtbaren Raad behoorlyk gequalificeerd, doet by deze alle Broodbakkers te kennen geven, en ordonneren, dat de Broden voor de volgende week te bakken het gewigt moeten houden als:

De Franche Broden 15, en

De Ronde Broden 16 ouncen.

Op pæne als by publicatie is gestatueerd.

Per order van den Raad Fiscaal,

SALOMON BULTE, Eerste Klerk.

Waarnemingen op het luchtgestel en ziekten van het eiland Curaçao. Door Daniel L.M. Peixotto, M. D. te New York.

(HET VERVOLG VAN N^o. 14)

De bestendige nitwasseming door de hitte van het zout, hetwelke aldus in den dampkring overgevoerd is, laat dus los een vry zout zuur volgens proeven van J. Murray van Londen. In dien deze belangrijke stelling aangenomen wierde, hebben wy eene voldoende oplossing van de zwaarigheid; en de evenredigheid van de verkalking der metalen in eene drooge ligging nabij de zee is niet twyfelachtig. Maar al wierde deze oplossing al of niet aangenomen, men moet tot het beginsel van dat zuur dat oogschynelyk van de zee ontstaat evenwel toevlugt nemen.—Zoude dit zuur geene invloed hebben met de schielijke uitblusching van brand als boven beschreven is?

De luchtgesteldheid zoo als men door de thermometer van Fahrenheit in de schaduw waargenomen heeft, plaatst zich in den loop van het jaar van 76 tot 90; de gemiddelde hitte is 85. De jaargetyden verschillen minder op dit eiland dan op de groote eilanden naar het noorden, noch komt de regen op regelde tydperken als by de meeste andere plaatsen onder de keerkringen, entbrekende zeer dikwyls aan achtereenvolgende seizoenen. Dit was voornamelyk het geval van de jaren 1820, 21. Gedurende dit tydperk heeft men byna geen weldadige regen gehad, uitgezonderde eenige vlagen die plaats hadden by verlengde tusschen tyden, en by gevolg ondervond men er een volkomen gebrek aan inougsting, tot het groot verlies der planters. Met uitzondering van weinige boomvruchten voor dewelke de droogte gunstig is, was er nergens eenig schyn van groeying te zien. De verwoesting der biadere in den winter regeerde onder eenen zonnekeerkring; de putten droogden zoo als gewoonlyk op; de bezielde en onbezielde natuur leed onder de lasten en stond op het punt te bezwyken en omtkomen, het vee stierf voornamelyk uit gebrek aan weiden en water. Op de plantagien zyn van de 1000 schepen 600 uitgestorven. Niettemin hebben de menschen weinig of geene ongemakken geleden in gezondheid; noch was er eenige vermeerdering in sterfgevallen of ziekte, zelfs niet eens onder de vreemdelingen, die dat eiland waren komen bezoeken. Aan de aanhoudende noord oostwinden, welke in deze jaren, nauwelyks opgehouden hebben te waayen, zelfs niet in de maanden van kalmte; benevens aan de afwezenheid van "meerssen en stilstaande wateren," die anders, gedurende de uitdamping en opdroging, de un-

deeligste dampen zoude uitgewasemd hebben, moet men hoofdzekelyk deze bevryding van ziekte toeschryven. Dezelfde nadeelen voor de inwoners van plaatsten, welke zware droogte uitgestaan hebben, heeft men hier of daar opgemerkt. Onder andere voorbeelden verhaalt Chalmers, dat gedurende het jaar 1752, de inwoners van Charleston zeer geleden hebben van drukkende hitte en droogte, maar er nimmer een gezonder jaargety bekend was, "zoo lang het weder aanhoudend vast, warm en schoon blijft." Deze daadzaken stemmen overeen, met eene wet gegeven, door dien getrouwe en nauwkeurige waarnemer Rush, welke is, dat dezelve "staat van den dampkring, het zy koude of warme, vochtig of droog, wanneer voor eenen langen tyd voortgeduurd, zonder wezenlyke veranderingen, altoos gezond is."

Zelden ondervindt men orkanen op dit eiland. Sedert de zware van den 17den October 1807, was men hiervan bevrydt.

De huizen zyn groot en hoog, en digt op elkander gebouwd. De enghed der straten, heeft my doen toeschryven, aan deze omstandigheid, de meerdere gezondheid eener opgepropt bevolking. De hooge en digt by elkander staande huizen, belatten de zonne stralen, om de omgevende lucht, tot die drukkende trap van hitte te brengen, welke zoo onverdragelyk is, in plaatsen waar de wydere straten en breeder ruimte, vrye doorstraling geven, aan de verzengde zon, om derzelve volle kracht uitte oefenen. Bovendien trekken de nauwe straten de winden aan, zy geven dezelve eene rigting, met sterkeren aandrang op de galleryen die voor elk huis zyn.

Er is niet veel byzonders in de manieren van het volk opmerken. Zy zyn in het algemeen gekarakteriseerd voor matigheid en werkzaamheid, en zy bereiken den zelfden hoogen ouderdom waartoe de bewoners van gunstiger gewesten op deze aarde geraken.

Men heeft reeds opgemerkt, dat de gezondheid van Curaçao tot een sprekewoord is geworden. De verwydering van besmettelijke oorzaken van ziekte, de zuivere en drooge lucht, den hoogen ouderdom, welks de inwoners genieten, dit alles bevestigt deze daadzaken. De zukkellende personen van de naburige eilanden nemen zeer dikwyls hier hun toevlugt en verkrygen gewisse verzachting. De lyders met de besmettelijke koorts van St. Domingo en Jamaika, vinden dadelyke verlichting by hunne aankomst te Curaçao; en de hardnekkigste gevallen van derdendaagse en wederkerende koorts, hebben moeten zwichten voor den milden invloed van eene gezonde lucht.

Lyders aan de tering vinden echter zelden leening door een lang verblyf op dit eiland.—De drooge gesteldheid der lucht schynt eerder nadeelig te zyn, voor die onder de lever ziekte zuchten. Het zuur tevens met hetwelke de dampkring veronderstelt wordt bezwangerd te zyn, draagt zonder twyfel veel toe aan deze nadeelige gesteldheid. De aanberstigen insgelyke vinden tevens deze plaats ongunstig voor hunne ziekte. Hiervan kan ik zelf getuigen. Toen een kind zynde, kwyade ik aan deze kwaal, en ik heb niet eerder baat gevonden dan toen ik van klimaat veranderde. By myn weder bezoek onlange op het eiland, begon de ziekte weder zich te laten gevoelen, en ik ondervond verscheidene zware vlagen van dezelve.

Onder de landziekten van deze plaats, mag men eerst die der oogen opnoemen. Een zwak gezigt is een zeer algemeene kwaal onder de inwoners, zelfs onder de jonge lieden, en hiervan is het gebruik van brillen algemeen geworden. De ergste kwalen waaraan dit zintuig onderworpen is, bestaan in oog ontstekingen, de nagel, de graauwe en zwarte star.

De oorzaken welke deze ziekten doen ontstaan, zyn onze opmerkingen waardig. De lynrechte zonne stralen, vallende op eenen dorren grond, waarover het groen zelden of nooit die verrisichende kouleuren werpen, waarop het oog zich vermaakt, gelyk in meer vruchtbare gewesten ter verpozing, worden terug gekeert met eene verblindende kracht, welke voor het oog nadeelig en smertelyk is; en veroorzaakt in dat teder zintuig eene indirecte verzwakking, welke strekt om hetzelfde vatbaar voor deze kwalen te maken. Immers waren de onvruchtbare vlakten van Egypte voor lang, om deze reden bekend, wegens derzelve nadeeligheid voor het gezigt der inboorlingen. Maar in Curaçao heeft de kalk, waarmede al de gebouwen, beide publieke en private, voorheen gewit werden, zeer veel aan deze gebreken toegebragt.—Dien ten gevolge heeft het gouvernement by publieke afkondiging, het witten der huizen ver-

boden; men zegt dat sedert dien tyd de inwoners minder met deze ziekten geplagd zyn.—Men heeft opgemerkt, dat dezelve oorzaak gelyke uitwerkingen te Bologne, Italië en op het eiland Malta voortgebragt heeft. Indien het noodzakelyk is, omstandiger te zyn, kan men by hrengen, de nabourschap der geoevers, de mazelen, welke somtyds by geval heerschen, en in vorige jaren, de kinderpokken, deze kunnen allen, als neven, oorzaken van de menigte oogziekten en gebreken, welke in deze plaats heerschen aangehaald worden.

Breuken heerschen byzonderlyk onder de negers zeer, en hoone bekwaamheid om dezelve te verhelpen is zeer groot. Fistelen byzonderlyk aan de anus, en het speen, zyn gewoonlyke kwalen, en het schynt dat de galachtige temperatuur waaraan de inwoners van warme luchtstroken onderworpen zyn, hiertoe medewerkt.

In zekere getyden van het jaar, zyn de inwoners blootgesteld van vergiftigd te worden, door zekere visschen; byzonderlyker door de geelaprot. Het schynt dat dit vergif, niet gedurig aan het visch eigen is, wyl men hem zonder kwade gevolgen, het gantsche jaar door eet, en het is op zekere tyden slechts, dat 't van dit doedelyke vergif besmet zyn. Die gene, die ten slagtoffer valle van dit onvermoedelyk venyn, sterft dadelyk met stuipreukingen, of zy blyven zukkelen met galachtige koorts, tot dat de dood een einde aan zyn lyden maakt. Somtyds wordt het vergif tegen gegaan met braek en prikkelende middelen, maar de zeer weinige gevallen, welke ik bygewoord heb waren de gevolgen eene spoedige dood.

De mazelen heerschen hier gevallyk als landziekte, en rigten groote verwoestingen aan. In het begin van het jaar 1821, verschenen dezelve en en bleven tot in Juny aanhouden, en waren zeer noodlottig, byzonderlyk voor de kinderen. In de meeste gevallen waren dezelve vergezeld met ontstekende kenteekens, en de koorts welke men daarbij krygt, neemt niet zelden eene kwaadaardige houding, of slaat over tot een buikloop, welke in de gevolgen hardnekkig en bezwaarlyk te genezen is. De slechte gevolgen van deze ziekte, werden in de meeste gevallen toegeschreven, aan een verzuim van verkoelende middelen en behandeling. Men gebruikt dikwylt vergif verdryvende middelen en opsluiting, ingevolge de ongegronde vrees der zwarten, en de nog meer onvergeeflyke domheid der kwakzalvers. Aan de andere kant, is het tydige open maken met het lancet, of, wanneer de ziekte niet zeer gevaarlyk is, het purgeren, en eene strikte diet houding, en de vrye toegang van zuivere lucht, van zeer goede gevolgen geweest, en heeft verzachting toegebragt aan deze gevaarlyke ziekte, en eene slepende ziekte verhoedt, welke gemeenlyk de gevolgen van deze kwaal is. De openhartigheid evenwel vereischt dat men bekennen moet, dat dezelve behandeling aan verschildende lyders, eene en hetzelfde huisgezin aangedaan niet altyd hetzelfde gewenschte uitwerkseel gehad heeft, en dat er evenwel geen zichtbaar onderscheid was in de oorzaak of de verschynselen dezer ziekte, welke tot zulk eene tegenstrydige uitkomst konden anleiding geven. De geneeskundige bevinden dat deze besmettelijke ziekte na derzelve eerste verschyning het gevaarlykste was, doch langzaam in gevaar af nam tot derzelve geheele verdwyning.

De buikziekte volgt het eerste hier op en daar deze kwaal zeer dikwyls onder de neger heerscht, heb ik geene kenteekens waargenomen, welke dezelve waardig maken, byzonderlyk verhandeld te worden. Men krygt het somtyds zoo zwaar, dat het zeer dikwyls in eene slepende ziekte verandert, welke, zoo men dezelve niet wel behandelt gemeenlyk de kracht des lyders afneemt, en hem ten laatste ten grave helpt. De behandeling waarby ik de grootste en de zekerste baat by gevonden heb, was om den lyder in den beginne te laten purgeren en braken, naar gelang van ontstekende kenteekens, en de gesteldheid der maag, het gene men aan de tong, &c. kan bemerken. Hierop, bediende ik my, gedurende de ziekte van calomel, met rhobarba of opium, naar omstandigheden. Eene zachte laxering, als kerpst olie, schreef ik nu en dan vóór en was van zeer goed gevolg. Wanneer de ziekte hare chronieke vorm aangenomen heeft, laat ik den lyder bovendien wat trekseis van kruiden, onder andere chamemille, welke het beste is gebruiken. In de benedenwinds havens van Zuid Amerika, dit uitnemend kruid, wordt als een heerlyk middel in deze ziekte gehouden, byzonderlyk met melk gedronken.

(Het vervolg hierna.)

•• ONDERTROUW.

J. A. F. HELLMUND,
EN
E. N. ROJER.

Curaçao den 25sten April 1823.

•• GETROUW.

De Heer A. DEGORTER, met Mevrouw
M. M. DEBROT.

De Heer JEWETT ALLEN, met Mevrouw
A. E. CRAANE.

De Heer P. USKO, met Mevrouw A. C.
CRANEVELDT.

De Heer J. F. K. ORLUS, met Mevrouw
J. P. D. G. J. MUSKUS.

Curaçao den 27sten April 1823.

His Majesty's Vice-Admiral, Captain Schröder, arrived on Tuesday from La Guayra.

Reported defeat of the Columbian blockade off Isla Larga.

The Columbian schooner Carmen, Esmit master, arrived here yesterday morning from Barbata, and brings the following important intelligence.

The Columbian brig Mosquito, whilst chasing a Spanish sloop which was beating up to Puerto Cabello, ran ashore close to that port. The corvette Carabobo was immediately despatched from Barbata to her assistance, and the corvette Maria Francisca, on board of which com. Daniels had embarked, followed soon afterwards for the same purpose. While they were thus employed a fleet of four sail hove in sight to windward, which were soon made out to be two Spanish frigates with two merchant vessels under their convoy. The Carabobo and Maria Francisca immediately proceeded towards them, and about three o'clock in the afternoon, they came to action, which lasted till half past five. Captain Esmit was lying in Barbata at the time of the engagement, and the last that he saw of the combatants was about sun down, when, with the help of his telescope, he perceived that the two Spanish vessels had then their flags flying. The firing had ceased on both sides, and the Columbian vessels having no colours hoisted, he concluded that they must have struck. The schooner Rayo, and a large felucca ran out of Puerto Cabello during the action, and carried in the two merchant vessels. They afterwards returned to the Spanish frigates, and were seen lying between them.

The brig Independencia, com. Beluche, was also in the action, but escaped, and passed this island yesterday morning, probably proceeding with the unpleasant news to com. Padilla, at Los Taques.

The corvette Bolivar was on a cruise.

It is supposed that the two Spanish vessels are the same which we noticed in our last to have arrived at Aguadilla. It is most probable they are from Spain, as two vessels of their description were expected.

The Vega of Puerto Cabello was evacuated about eight days ago, in consequence of the want of provisions, and has been taken possession of by the Columbians.

Confirmation of the above.

The Columbian schooner Rayo, from Barbata, arrived off the harbour this morning, and fully confirms the above statement. The action is stated to have been well contested by the Columbian vessels against great superiority of force. The Spanish vessels are reported to be one of 54 and the other of 44 guns. It is supposed that great slaughter must have been made on both sides. The Maria Francisca and the Carabobo had both been carried into Puerto Cabello. The official account of the action may be shortly expected here.

Four Spanish privateers, it is reported, were cruising off La Guayra, supposed to be from Porto Rico.

Extract of a letter, dated La Guayra, April 26, 1823.

The news current at your place respecting our political situation, are mere fabrications of the Royalists moulded up at best suits their fancy and caprice. Venezuela so far from being in want of the resources of the other departments, supplies these latter continually with every thing—money, provisions, ammunitions, and equipments of war of all kind: nay she has her troops in great numbers all about—at Bogotá, Quito, and Rio-Hacha, &c. The Rayo shall sail for Puerto Cabello will be taken and those that can not be this, may sit down and weep. Soon will the bar of Maracaybo be forced, and the Lagoon in the possession of the brave Padilla, the conqueror of Santa Martha and Carthage; while general Montilla with at least 5,000 warriors by land, will make the Isleño (Canary Islander) beat the dust.

The liberator president went down to Guayaquil for the purpose of withdrawing his army, which is already on its return from Peru, its co-operation not being any longer required there, as all that has been said of Lima, proved incorrect and the greatest tranquillity reigns there. It is believed, these troops will come to Panama to be embarked at Porto Bello for Santa Martha and Rio-Hacha, whence they will proceed to Maracaybo, if necessary.

On the 18th inst. the corvette el Recluta of 42 long carronades with 120 men, extremely well equipped, arrived here from England, and on the 22d proceeded to St. Thomas, where she will await the answer of this government, whether or not the loan contracted by the late Mr.

Zee, is acknowledged; in the former case, she will repair immediately to active service—in the latter return to Europe; but it is already known the intention of Congress to acknowledge the loan—she may consequently be reckoned among the Columbian navy. The 44 gun frigate Speed was to sail the same week as the corvette, from Liverpool, and will be a valuable acquisition against any force that may be brought from the Havana, by Mr. de La Borde, if ever he comes at all.

By the official accounts from general Gomez and bulletin N^o. 4 from Rio Hacha to the commandant of this port, it is ascertained that the enemy cowardly fell back in every direction where our army presented itself—and lately at the mere sham movement of Tiradores, leaving many prisoners behind. Colonel Terrelles has been ordered to Coro with a strong column—The Indian Reyes Vargas has been shot by the brave colonel Reyes Gonzales; the former was detected in secret operations in favor of Morales.

The most uniform tranquillity prevails here and throughout the whole country.

Extract of another letter, same date.

I send you the Iris de Venezuela to the latest dates. They contain no intelligence of marked interest. A few days ago a corvette arrived here from England. She was sent out for this government, but as there was no cash in the public chest to pay for her, and as she was not to be given on tick, we had the mortification to see her leave the port, for St. Thomas, on her way back to England. Our land forces are actually doing nothing. The blockade of Puerto Cabello, both by land and sea, is carried on with so little ability, that I already anticipate its termination will be the same as the former. This blockade has cost the government more men and money than Puerto Cabello is worth, without a single advantage having been derived from it, after a siege of several years. This useless service keeps the treasury bare of cash, and government is therefore obliged to give bills for what they purchase, made payable in duties; the consequence is, that these bills cannot be negotiated without a loss of 25 to 30 per cent. At the present time there is a stiffness in our political horizon that would seem to indicate some change or other. God grant that it may be a good one for us. Send me some of the Curaçao papers. Sometimes I perceive articles inserted in them rather severe upon Columbia; but I often find also that they contain many painful truths.

In the Iris de Venezuela of the 17th of April, there is an ill-natured attack upon our paper, contained in an article communicated from this island, dated the 13th March, and signed "El Columbiano." We are not unacquainted with the vulgar epithets of the writer, slander is his hobbyhorse, and had we had no more than a squint at the article, we should have instantly recognised the author. He sets out in his communication with a piece of advice from Voltaire to a journalist, pointing out the line of conduct he ought to pursue. This might have done very well for the Iris; but we would ask what have the inhabitants of Venezuela to do with the manner in which our paper is conducted, whether it is "a compilation from the public papers of most other nations," (this by the way we take rather as a compliment than otherwise paid to our industry,) or whether it treats of "philosophy, history, poetry, &c. There is nothing in this remark that can answer any purpose. But it seems we occasionally take upon us "to contradict, like a warm enemy, the accounts communicated relative to the political affairs of Columbia, or to exaggerate those of her antagonists"—this is "falso y falsísimo." We fearlessly say so, and were it necessary this assertion could be easily proved.

We positively deny that we have ever been the willing instruments of misleading the public by erroneous statements from either the one or the other party. It has, we confess, been our misfortune to have been often deceived, but in this we were not singular, "the papers of most other nations" have received their share of the falsehoods propagated with respect to the political affairs of the Main. Indeed, from the conflicting statements of the war, ever and anon in circulation, it is with much difficulty that the truth can be elicited.

Again—"Columbia does not want our feeble encomiums." We are not in the habit of paying compliments where they are not merited, but when we see occasion our remarks shall not be spared.

We are also accused of having published a false statement of the Cienega and St. Martha having revolted and hoisted the Spanish flag; and of the retreat of the Columbians from Rio de la Hacha on the 21st of February, in consequence of the approach of the troops of general Morales. The intelligence in question was received here by vessels direct from these places, and we recollect to have distinctly stated when we published the account, that we gave it merely as a report. We now, however, have the satisfaction to find, that the most material part of the statement is fully corroborated, even in the very article of El Columbiano, with the exception of a trifling error in the date:—He says, "the Catalans, abusing the generosity extended to them by the Columbian government, revolutionized, as good slaves of their general Morales, the town of the Cienega, and afterwards took possession of St. Martha; but this was as a dream. On the 27th of December the insurrection in the Cienega was completed, and on the 3d of January they occupied St. Martha; but on the 21st of the same month their rash

enterprise was completely defeated, by the forces which general Montilla had carried to Rio de la Hacha; and they received a corresponding punishment." From the above it will be perceived that the Catalans actually did revolt, and kept possession of the Cienega and St. Martha for twenty-six days, and consequently hoisted the Spanish flag. So much for the correctness of our intelligence.

The ill-natured communication to the Iris, therefore appears to have been called forth in consequence of our having given publicity to more facts than El Columbiano could have wished to come to light. Neither is he, we are well aware, pleased with our having published the Liberator and other documents of the various successes of general Morales; but it is a matter of perfect indifference to us who has taken offence—we performed our duty to the public.

We have all along considered it incumbent on us to steer a clear course between the conflicting parties, publishing the news of the day, with such remarks as we thought necessary for its elucidation, without enlisting ourselves on either side. To have acted otherwise, or withheld any important intelligence from either party, because it did not coincide with the interest or wishes of certain individuals, would have been deviating from that line of conduct we have prescribed to ourselves, and which we are determined to pursue. El Columbiano knows the truth of these observations.

He asserts, however, that as the press is our property, we control it as we please, and consequently it is not free. To refute this falsehood would be only a waste of time. If there is any part of our conduct that we have to regret, it is in allowing our press to have been heretofore too open to the dissemination of his slanderous productions.

He also attempts, by way of smoothing over his communication, to pay a passing compliment to the good folks of this island. In addressing himself to us he says—"Mr. Editor, consult yourself better, and do not venture your estimation, nor convert the philanthropic people of Curaçao, without cause, to the disaffection of their neighbours the Columbians." Fudge, the philanthropic people of Curaçao are possessed of too much good sense to be converted into your way of thinking; and let us tell you Mr. Columbiano, that they know also how to estimate the full value of the friendship of their Columbian neighbours.

Rapid Firing.—Mr. Ellis, of New York, came to this place (Washington) a few weeks since for the purpose of submitting to the government his invention in the repeating fire arms, consisting of muskets, rifles, fowling pieces, and pistols, containing from three to 10 charges each.—Suitable persons were appointed on the part of the ordnance department, to superintend the experiments, and take notes of the performance of the different pieces. The following are some of the experiments, extracted from the minutes. Four pieces of the following description were loaded and fired separately, as follows: a musket containing 8 charges, was fired in 12 seconds; a rifle containing 10 charges, was fired in 17 seconds; a pistol containing 5 charges, was fired in 11 seconds; and a pistol containing 4 charges was fired in 5½ seconds. Five pieces, containing in all 35 charges, 30 of which were discharged in succession in one minute and 10 seconds.—Four pieces, containing 31 charges, were discharged in succession at a target, at the distance of 29 yards, in two minutes and two seconds. 22 of the balls hit the target.

These guns consist of a single barrel and lock, stocked in the usual style, and are perfectly simple, safe, and convenient. The number of charges may be extended to twenty, or even thirty, without adding any thing to the incumbrance of the piece, except a few ounces to its weight—each charge being as completely under the distinct and separate control of the gunner as a single charge in an ordinary gun, which, by means of a sliding lock that primes itself, may be discharged in less than two seconds to a charge, or at any longer intervals, at the option of the gunner, with the same effect as the ordinary fire arms.—*American Paper.*

Observations on the Climate and Diseases of the Island of Curaçao. By Daniel L. M. Peixotto, M. D. of New York.

(CONTINUED FROM N^o. 11.)

Among the endemic diseases of this place may be first mentioned those affecting the eye. Weak sight is a very general complaint among the inhabitants, even in those that are young; and hence the use of glasses is very common.—The more serious affections of this organ to be met with are ophthalmias, pterygia, cataracts, and amaurosis.

The causes of the prevalence of these disorders are not unworthy our notice. The rays of a vertical sun darting on a barren soil, over which verdure seldom or never throws those refreshing hues on which the eye delights, in more fertile regions, to repose, are reflected with a dazzling intensity, which proves irritably painful to the eye; and inducing in that delicate organ an indirect debility, powerfully predisposes it to be excited to disease. So the sterile plains of Egypt, for the same reason, have long been noted for their unfriendliness to the vision of the natives. But in Curaçao the white lime, with which all the buildings, both public and private, were formerly washed, has been a more actively exciting cause of these disorders. On this account it was that the go-

Government issued a decree forbidding houses to be covered with any colour lighter than yellow; since the operation of which the inhabitants are said to suffer less. The same cause has been observed to produce similar effects at Bologna, in Italy, and at the Isle of Malta. If it were necessary to enter more into detail, the neighbourhood of the sea, the occasional prevalence of measles, and, in former years, of the small-pox, might be cited as additional causes of the many defects and diseases of the eye prevalent in this place.

Hernias are frequent, particularly among the negroes, whose skill in reducing them is very great. Fistulæ, particularly in ano, subsequent to piles, are often met with, and seem to be connected with the bilious disposition so incidental to those living in warm latitudes.

I could not discover that any case of hydrophobia had ever occurred here. The disease is generally known by name only.

In particular months of the year the inhabitants are exposed to be poisoned by certain fishes; more particularly the yellow bill sprat.—This poison does not appear to be a permanent property of the fish, as they are eaten with impunity in general throughout the year, and it is at times only that they become possessed of this deadly venom. Whoever becomes the unfortunate victim of the unsuspected poison, is either hurried off by immediate and excruciating convulsions, or he suffers and lingers with violent symptoms of a bilious cholera, till death comes to his relief. Sometimes the poison is eliminated and counteracted by means of emetics and subsequent stimulants; but the very few cases that fell under my own observation proved speedily fatal.

The measles occasionally reign here epidemically, and they commit great ravages. In the early part of 1821 they made their appearance, and continued until the middle of June, proving very fatal, particularly to children. They were in most cases attended with inflammatory symptoms, and the secondary fever frequently assumed a malignant type, or went off with a diarrhœa, which proved in the sequel obstinate and difficult of cure. The fatality of this disease was owing, in most cases, to a neglect of the antiphlogistic regimen and treatment; alexipharmics and confinement being frequently resorted to in consequence of the ignorant fears of the blacks, and the far more unpardonable ignorance of the empirics. On the other hand, early depletion by the lancet, or, where the case was less violent, cathartics, and a strict conformance to rules of abstinence, and the free admission of cool air, were found successful in allaying the violence of the disease, and preventing those chronic sequelæ, usually incident to this complaint. Candour, however, requires the confession, that the same treatment in various members of the same family was not always attended with desired success, and that where no visible difference in the cause or symptoms of the disease could account for such variety of issue. The epidemic was observed by the physicians generally to assume its most violent aspect some time after its first appearance, and then gradually to abate until its final extinction.

The dysentery may next be mentioned, and as occurring more frequently among the blacks. I did not observe any symptom, as rendering it worthy of particular description. The acute form of this disease, however, frequently ended in chronic diarrhœa, which, unless properly managed, frequently wastes the strength of the patient, and finally destroys him. The treatment from which I experienced the greatest, and of ten most decided benefit, was to deplete or vomit the patient in the earlier stages, according to the degree of inflammatory symptoms present, and the condition of the stomach, as indicated by the tongue, &c. After this, my dependence throughout the disease was placed upon colomel, combined with rhubarb or opium, according to circumstances. A mild laxative, as castor oil, was occasionally interposed, and with much benefit. If the disease had assumed its chronic form, I added the infusion of some light bitters, among which camomile was the most grateful. In the leeward harbours of the South American coast, this excellent tonic is deemed a specific in the treatment of the disease, particularly when combined with milk.

I shall next treat of fevers, premising a few general remarks that will apply in common to all of them.

It has been too much the fashion to refer to the exclusive agency of bile, every disease which flourishes in hot weather and climates, and, under this impression, to include them all under the broad and vague appellation of bilious. It was thus formerly with putrefaction, with which all tropical diseases were necessarily supposed to be connected, and hence the term putrid, superadded to their frequently unmeaning list of titles. Mosely has sufficiently exposed the fallacy of this doctrine, and shown the dangerous tendency it produced on supposed and gratuitous curative indications. The error, as regards bile, is no less glaring, and no less productive of danger. The indiscriminate use of remedies calculated to act on the liver, to the absolute neglect of the more prompt means requisite to arrest the progress and allay the violence of inflammatory action in more vital organs, (to which affections robust, plethoric newcomers, are most subject on their first arrival,) has been the frequent and fatal effect of this unphilosophical spirit of generalization applied to the diseases of warm latitudes.

Bilious symptoms are always present, to a greater or less degree, in the fevers of the tropics. The sympathy subsisting between the

liver and skin, induces in the functions of the former, a similarity of affection with that, which those of the latter never fail to undergo, under the operation of continued and high degrees of heat. Hence this important viscus is seldom or never in a perfectly sound state, even in those who are in seeming possession of health. But no sooner does the frame succumb to disease, be it of whatever kind, than the biliary organ is among the first to experience the effect, and, in many cases, it forms the most prominent point of attack.* This is more especially the case in the ordinary fevers of the climate to which the epithet bilious, is, in general, applied with strict propriety. But frequently these morbid affections are alleged as causes, or as constituting the diagnostic symptoms of diseases in which they are, in fact, no more than accessory or incidental occurrences. Thus yellow fever, it has been maintained, is a bilious disorder, because bilious symptoms are occasionally present during the disease, and post mortem examinations generally show some affection of the liver to have preceded death. But, from what has been said, it must appear that the conclusion drawn from these circumstances occurring in yellow fever, must, to say the least of it, involve no small share of doubt. When we further consider that in this disease other organs invariably present a far greater degree of lesion, both in the symptoms of the disease and on dissection, this doubt will amount to a certainty that the yellow fever is not a bilious disease.

The bilious fevers, then, are those in which the liver is the origin of the disease, and bears the onus of suffering in common with the viscera subservient to it, as evinced by the most marked and uniform symptoms of the disease. The obvious indications, and the method of cure, which, when early attempted, is generally successful, consisting of emetics, cathartics, diaphoretics, and mercury, all tend to the same conclusion. The creoles and the seasoned Europeans and Americans are equally abnoxious to their attacks; those being especially their prey who indulge in an abuse of the non naturæ.—Many pay a dear annual tribute to these fevers; frequently making hair-breadth escapes, from the shock of which they no sooner recover, than they undauntedly resume their habitual course, till it at last brings them to the goal of both their pleasures and their pains. These subjects generally carry with them some mark by which they may be distinguished, a chronic ulcer, the piles, fistula, or, to top the climax by the severest of all ills to which flesh is heir to, dyspepsia, and, its faithful Achates, hypochondriasis.

The natives are more particularly subject to catarrhal, nervous, and typhoid fevers. I had no opportunity of seeing these, except as they occurred in solitary instances, and these were mostly cases of children, in whom the causes of disease were those indigenous to all places in every climate.

Nervous fevers are, however, as I am informed, epidemical at times, especially after a season of rain, followed by intense heat and calms, when many of those, who during the reign of the ordinary healthy seasons, were accustomed, with impunity, to indulge ad libitum, now pay the forfeit of their sins against the laws of temperance and sobriety. In the cure of these fevers, after properly premised evacuations, the bark and snake root are early admissible.

Intermittents are seldom seen in Curaçao.—The observation made by Hillary on Barbadoes will apply to this island with strict accuracy.—“Intermittent fevers,” observes that author, “especially tertians and quartans, are very rarely or never seen in this island, unless they are brought from some of the leeward islands, or some other places less cultivated, and not cleared of wood.” A similar observation on Savanna la Mar, in Jamaica, was made by Jackson. In Curaçao they are occasionally brought from the States, and from the large islands and harbours on the leeward coasts, and, as I before remarked, they are speedily subdued. But although the intermittent is not native here in general, exceptions do occur, and some have fallen under my observation. I attended, at different periods, two negroes from the plantations, who were affected, the one with a quotidian, the other with a tertian type of intermittent fever.—These negroes, as I was correctly informed, had been engaged in labour in low places, near to which I found, on examination, ponds of stagnant water had been temporarily formed by partial, but, as is usual within the tropics, heavy showers of rain. This fact strikingly illustrates a principle formerly not well understood, that places which are in general remarkable for their salubrity may, by the operation of transient causes, change their character, and become, for a season, unhealthy. Thus situations that are ordinarily dry may, after the formation of heavy rains, or by the overflowing of rivers of fresh water, of pools, standing waters, or temporary marshes, change features and localities with those that are habitually moist; while these latter, by the agency of the same causes, may become, for a while, free from their usual causes of disease. The observation made by Volney in Egypt, that “a boundless plain, at different seasons, is an ocean of fresh water, a miry morass, a verdant field, or a dusty desert,” beautifully exemplifies the gradual change which the same district of land undergoes in its aspect and medico-topographical character, and

* In hot climates a sound state of the liver is never to be expected after death, whether the disease has been acute or chronic; of the latter class of disease it is almost always the seat and origin.—MOSLEY, p. 413.

accounts for the varying degrees of healthiness and unhealthiness that give rise to opposite conclusions drawn from observations made at different periods.

To return. I could not entertain a doubt as to the peculiar cause that excited the fever in the cases which I have recorded, because there was no other case of the disease in the island; and secondly, because a removal of my patients to the dry sea-shore lent almost instantaneous efficacy to the ordinary medicines employed to arrest the disease.

It has been questioned whether typhus fever can or does prevail excepting in cold weather. That warm weather is equally or more favourable to its production and extension, cannot, however, be doubted, after the mass of testimony extant in medical records, if we begin with Pringle and continue our examination through the later and more able authors who have written on typhus since his time. I shall not dwell on this point, but proceed to observe, that if it were true that hot weather was a certain preventive of this fever, it should follow, as a regular consequence, that it could never prevail in the torrid zone. Is this, however, the fact? If we examine the writings of Thomas, Mc. Arthur, Ferguson, and all English physicians who must be supposed to have been well acquainted with the characteristics of typhus, we shall find that they have given their unequivocal testimony in favour of the prevalence of this disease in the West Indies. Their testimony on this subject is the more invaluable, as they do not appear to have been biased by any theory in favour of either side of the disputed question; of which dispute it is more than probable they did not dream. The following brief account will tend to show that it can originate under the fervor of the vertical sun, and be imported into an island suffering under heat rendered more intense by a long state of drought.

In July, 1821, an extensive emigration took place from the coasts of Venezuela. The success of the Colombian forces compelled those Spaniards, who were unwilling to abjure their faith to the mother country, to desert their homes at a moment's warning, and, embarking in crowds on board of the first vessels they could reach, to disperse themselves over the neighbouring islands. On board of these vessels they were, of course, ill accommodated; and during their passage they suffered immeasurably from the privations to which they were necessarily subjected, in the absence of every thing like comfort or cleanliness, and, above all, from the depression of spirits, which their situation and the gloomy prospect before them could not fail to inspire. Nearly two thousand of these arrived at Curaçao, where many were compelled to crowd together in small habitations, destitute, in many instances, of every convenience. Many of these emigrants likewise suffered much by the change of water, which was, at this time, owing to the long continued drought, both scarce and not always of the best quality. They had not been long in the island before typhus fever appeared here and there among them, and it proved in some instances very fatal, but in the greater part less violent and more amenable to the aid of medicine. I observed that most of those who were attacked had come from places on the main, in which the remittent and typhus were endemic, as Porto Cabello, and places in the interior, &c. and I was, on account of this circumstance, led to conclude, that the subjects of the disease must have received the seeds of it before their departure from their homes, and that the depressing influence of the calamities of war, with the other exciting causes of low fever to which they were subsequently exposed, had proved the means of developing the disease. In these cases, the same loss of sensorial power and depression of nervous energy, which is observed in the typhus of authors, the same pungent heat and invincible stricture on the surface; the same quick, low, and irritable pulse; the black and parched tongue, tremulous too withal on exposure; the sordes about the gums and lips; the dull eye; the locked up state of the secretions and excretions; the exacerbation at night; and toward the close of the disease, the low delirium and subsultus tendinum; lætid and involuntary discharges, petechiæ, &c. were to be observed; and when thus combined, ended in the death of the patient from the eighth to the eleventh day. In cases where the disease terminated favourably, its course was protracted for several weeks. Dysenteric symptoms were occasionally joined to the fever, and in many instances pulmonary irritation was very constant, and added to the restless torments of the sufferer. The treatment was such as has elsewhere been resorted to in typhus gravior, making allowance for the climate and the peculiar condition of the sufferers. Bleeding was in no instance resorted to, but copious evacuation from the bowels, gentle diaphoretics, and blisters, in the early stages, followed in the further progress of the disease, by the use of stimulants and opiates, according to circumstances, attention to the urine discharges not being omitted, were ever found highly beneficial. On the other hand, a blind neglect of the evacuating system, and the too early recourse had to stimulants, by untimely fears of debility and putrefaction, never failed of doing harm, and generally betrayed itself by the subsequent more dreadful symptoms. I cannot omit adding, that contagion did not in the least appear to be a property of the fever, all those affected having been equally subjected to the same causes, and in no instance was the disease communicated to others. So that after a short period it ceased altogether.

(To be continued.)