diluted with three parts water, it died in three minutes; in pure creosote and in concentrated acids and alkalies, its death was immediate. Placed over night on powdered sulphur the animalcule was found dead the next day, and it required to be exposed to the vapour of burning sulphur for sixteen minutes before it died."

EFFECT OF THE CLIMATE OF UPPER CANADA ON THE LUNGS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some time ago a patient of mine, a gentleman of delicate constitution, several of whose relatives had died of phthisis pulmonalis, showed symptoms indicative of the approach of that insidious disease. I stated my fears to his wife, at the same time mentioning the high opinion I entertained of the climate of Upper Canada for such cases, founded on information I had received from my brother, Mr. Henry Orton, a surgeon practising at Guelph in that province; and it was agreed that I should consult a physician, who had occasionally attended the patient, on this point. I did so, and mentioned the accounts I had repeatedly received of the remarkable salubrity of Upper Canada, and its adaptation especially to patients of this description; but the doctor evidently was dubious. He reached down Sir James Clark's work, speaking of it as one of the highest authority on this subject, and said, "I do not see that Canada is even mentioned;" and concluded the conversation by saying "I really cannot countenance the advice you seem disposed to give; the fact is, we (meaning the medical profession) know nothing of Canada." I may add that this patient went through a quiet course of phthisis, and died a few months ago.

Now, although my information on the subject is but imperfect, being derived almost entirely, as I have said before, from incidental communications received from time to time from my brother, without any reference to publication, I think it sufficiently important, and sufficiently to be relied upon, to be made public; and shall feel much obliged by your giving this paper a place in your celebrated Journal, that the medical profession may not be altogether uninformed as to the claims which, as it appears to me, Canada has on our notice, as a locality highly favourable for the prevention of a class of diseases at present so lamentably prevalent, and as lamentably fatal.

The following is extracted from a letter dated December, 1836, being the first communication on the subject that I recollect:—

"I had occasion a short time since to call in old Mr. Allen to a case five or six miles off in the bush, and we had a great deal of, to me, very interesting chat on the road.

Mr. Allen had, he told me, when he came out, letters of recommendation to the governor from Dr. James Johnson, editor of the "Medico-Chirurgical Review," who, he said, had written on the excellence of this climate in all scrofulous and phthisical affections,—reckoning it far before the south of Europe, &c. I quite believe he could not well go too far in this particular. It is a veritable fact that a scrofulous case is scarcely ever seen in Upper Canada in any shape. Mr. Allen instanced several families hereabout that had emigrated from his own county—Suffolk, who, in the old country, had suffered awfully from consumptive bereavements, and several of them in alarming conditions themselves when they came out, who had never shown a symptom of the sort since they came to Canada; and other families who had suffered from scrofulous affections in various forms, that never had given an indication of it here. I myself have never seen a scrofulous or consumptive case yet."

This Mr. Allen, I may mention, was the principal surgeon at Guelph when my brother arrived—having resided there almost from the first settlement of the place—a gentleman in extensive practice, and very much esteemed, both as a sensible well-informed man, and a good practitioner.

In a letter dated December, 1839, I find the following:—

"I have written to —— (a relative of ours who had had hæmoptysis, &c.), but do not think from the accounts I have heard of him, that there is much chance of his coming out here. I have, however, done what I consider my duty in the matter, and so must leave it. I am convinced I have not said too much on the dangerous position of one who has been the subject of an attack of hæmoptysis, or have too highly recommended this neighbourhood for such constitutions. I feel confident in my own mind that there is not a more congenial climate, for such, in the whole world. I have been lately looking over some old Methodist Magazines, and it is astounding, when reading the obituary department, to see the number of valuable and most promising lives that are continually cut off by consumption; and I frequently think that nearly the whole of them might have been saved by a timely emigration to Upper Canada."

I shall only add here that I have continued to receive precisely similar reports and statements from time to time up to the present.

About eighteen months ago the late highly-respected Dr. Davidson, of Nottingham, showed me a letter he had then recently received from my brother, in which the same testimony was given; and the doctor, having at that time a patient at Lenton, who had for some years suffered sadly from asthma, immediately recommended him to try a resi-

dence in Canada ; which recommendation the Misses Wright, of Lenton Firs, enabled him to carry into effect. I have heard from my brother that this man had been residing at Guelph, and working at out-door work, chiefly gardening, and that he enjoyed good health, with an entire exemption from his old companion, the asthma, except that in one instance he had suffered a short attack, brought on by allowing his wet clothes to dry upon him, after working out in the rain one day.

In the spring of last year my sister, Mrs. Whitt, of Nottingham, who had been subject to a bad cough at times for some years, suffered a severe attack of pneumonia, from which she with great difficulty recovered ; indeed, the recovery was very incomplete ; for, after the inflammatory symptoms had been subdued, and the immediate danger averted, there continued to remain great debility and emaciation, a very troublesome cough, considerable expectoration, night-sweats, &c. In this stage I consulted Dr. Davidson, who, after a careful examination with the stethoscope, &c., considered her in an alarming condition, and gave altogether an unfavourable prognosis, but concurred with me in recommending her to try a removal to Canada. The result has been most satisfactory. It is not long since I received a letter from Mr. Whitt, who was not able to join his wife until this summer, saying that he found her quite recovered, much stouter ; indeed, in good health.

Whether, and to what extent, other localities possess the advantages which seem to appertain to the vicinity of Guelph, remains to be seen ; and I shall be glad if this communication be the means of eliciting reports from medical gentlemen practising in other parts of Canada. Mr. H. Orton occasionally uses the word Canada, or Upper Canada, when speaking of the benefits to be derived from its bracing atmosphere, as though the whole province generally was intended, and as though it was a matter of no consequence what particular locality might be fixed upon ; but I confess I greatly doubt the correctness of that inference. The great bulk of the population of Canada is located along the margins of the lakes and rivers, and it is well known that the greater part of the settlements are very subject to agues, fevers, bowel complaints, &c., diseases incident to low, marshy, ill-drained situations ; but that portion of the province with which alone my brother is practically acquainted, is very differently circumstanced—being a high, dry, undulating region, as remarkable for its salubrity as many of the settlements are for their unhealthiness. The Wellington district, of which Guelph has recently been made the district town, is altogether an upland district, and forms a part of what may not imaptly be called the backbone of Western

Canada ; for whereas the river Speed, which passes by Guelph, runs southerly, and with its numerous tributary creeks, as they are called, joins the Grand River, which empties itself into the Lake Erie ; a little beyond Guelph the brooks and rivers take an opposite course, and pass on to the northern lakes, Simcoe, &c. : and the adaptation of this elevated region for certain constitutions especially, which it is the object of this paper to bring to the notice of the profession, seems to depend on its pure, dry, tonic atmosphere, and its entire freedom from marsh miasma.

That this locality is, however, not recommended for those actually suffering from tubercular disease of the lungs *in an advanced stage*, I need scarcely say. For such, the soft, mild, equable atmosphere of our own southern coasts, the Isle of Wight, Madeira, &c., is doubtless to be preferred ; but when we see how awfully prevalent consumptive and scrofulous diseases are become among us, and consequently how many there are who, from hereditary or other causes, have acquired a fearful predisposition to these fatal maladies, it becomes an important inquiry how the further development thereof may best be prevented or counteracted. It is, therefore, in my opinion, not a little satisfactory to know that in one of our own colonies, within easy reach, and among our fellow-subjects, enjoying the same excellent laws and institutions as ourselves, there is a country, possessing also many advantages for emigrants, *where these complaints are actually unknown*, except when imported,—a country the atmosphere of which is so invigorating, as to constitute, for such constitutions, a natural corrective. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

J. ORTON.

Beeston, Notts, Aug. 18, 1843.

ERYSIPELAS ERRATICUM.

A patient has hurt his knee. Leeches are applied. Erysipelas spreads from the bites, up the thigh, down the leg. Abscess threatens. The *lancet* used early saves the skin. The erysipelas extends to the body, with more chills, and increase of fever. The face is affected, one day, the breast and loins the next. The symptoms, by treatment, become less violent, but *still* the inflammatory blush is shifting. In such cases the muriated tincture of iron is the best tonic.—*Sir Charles Bell*.

COMMON SALT IN TYPHOID FEVER.—Some French physicians at New Orleans have used chloride of sodium with valuable effect in typhus after all inflammatory symptoms have been subdued. They give from half to three-quarters of an ounce of salt in the course of twenty-four hours in some emollient vehicle, aided by clysters containing two or three drachms or upwards of the same remedy.—*Gaz. des Hôp.*