

## SANITARY AND METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

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### VITAL STATISTICS

*For four Weeks ending Saturday, November 7, 1891.*

The deaths registered in each of the four weeks in the sixteen principal Town Districts of Ireland, alphabetically arranged, corresponded to the following annual rates per 1,000 :—

Towns	Weeks ending				Towns	Weeks ending			
	Oct. 17.	Oct. 24.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.		Oct. 17.	Oct. 24.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.
Armagh .	18·9	18·9	25·2	12·6	Limerick .	16·8	18·2	14·0	11·2
Belfast .	24·3	23·8	23·4	25·5	Lisburn .	4·3	12·9	17·2	4·3
Cork .	23·8	21·0	23·8	22·4	Londonderry	27·2	16·0	19·2	25·6
Drogheda	—	17·6	13·2	17·6	Lurgan .	23·0	4·6	9·2	23·0
Dublin .	24·0	22·7	23·3	30·3	Newry .	15·6	19·5	7·8	19·5
Dundalk .	3·9	15·6	3·9	15·6	Sligo .	—	57·2	10·4	15·6
Galway .	19·0	45·6	3·8	0·0	Waterford .	28·8	16·8	9·6	9·6
Kilkenny	—	28·2	23·5	9·4	Wexford .	13·5	27·0	13·5	31·5

In the week ending Saturday, October 17, 1891, the mortality in twenty-eight large English towns, including London (in which the rate was 16·3), was equal to an average annual death-rate of 18·2 per 1,000 persons living. The average rate for eight principal towns of Scotland was 18·7 per 1,000. In Glasgow the rate was 19·4, and in Edinburgh it was 14·7.

The average annual death-rate represented by the deaths registered during the week in the sixteen principal town districts of Ireland was 22·1 per 1,000 of the population (unrevised) according to the recent Census.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the sixteen districts were equal to an annual rate of 2·4 per 1,000, the rates varying from 0·0 in eleven of the districts to 7·2 in Waterford—the 12 deaths from all causes registered in that district comprising 3 from diarrhœa. Among

the 119 deaths from all causes registered in Belfast are 2 from scarlatina, 1 from whooping-cough, 3 from enteric fever, and 10 from diarrhoea.

In the Dublin Registration District the registered births amounted to 132—66 boys and 66 girls; and the registered deaths to 164—86 males and 78 females.

The deaths, which are 6 over the average number for the corresponding week of the last ten years, represent an annual rate of mortality of 24·6 in every 1,000 of the population. Omitting the deaths (numbering 4) of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the district, the rate was 24·0 per 1,000. During the first forty-one weeks of the current year the death-rate averaged 24·9, and was 2·4 under the mean rate in the corresponding period of the ten years 1881–1890.

The number of deaths from zymotic diseases registered is 22, being 6 under the number for the preceding week and 3 below the average for the 41st week of the last ten years. They comprise 2 from whooping-cough, 9 from enteric fever, and 9 from diarrhoea.

The number of cases of enteric fever admitted to hospital is 40, being 1 under the number for the preceding week. Thirteen enteric fever patients were discharged, 3 died, and 154 remained under treatment on Saturday, being 24 over the number in hospital at the close of the preceding week.

The hospital admissions for the week include, also, 3 cases of measles, and 2 of typhus, but no case of scarlatina was received. Three cases of measles, 3 of scarlatina, and 6 of typhus remained under treatment in hospital on Saturday.

Twenty-seven deaths from diseases of the respiratory system were registered, being 13 over the low number for the preceding week and 1 over the average for the 41st week of the last ten years. They comprise 14 from bronchitis and 11 from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs.

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In the week ending Saturday, October 24, the mortality in twenty-eight large English towns, including London (in which the rate was 17·7), was equal to an average annual death-rate of 18·6 per 1,000 persons living. The average rate for eight principal towns of Scotland was 19·0 per 1,000. In Glasgow the rate was 19·7, and in Edinburgh it was 17·5.

The average annual death-rate in the sixteen principal town districts of Ireland was 22·5 per 1,000 of the population (unrevised) according to the recent Census.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the sixteen districts were equal to an annual rate of 2·4 per 1,000, the rates varying from 0·0 in Galway, Newry, Dundalk, Drogheda, Lurgan, and Armagh, to 14·1 in Kilkenny. The 6 deaths from all causes registered in the last-named district comprise 3 from diarrhoea. Among the 117 deaths from all causes registered in Belfast are 1 from scarlatina, 2 from enteric

fever, and 4 from diarrhoea. The 30 deaths in Cork comprise 1 from each of the following diseases--Scarlatina, whooping-cough, and diphtheria. The 11 deaths in Sligo comprise 1 from small-pox and 1 from diarrhoea. Referring to the death from small-pox, the Assistant Registrar of No. 1 District in which it occurred remarks :—" 5 months old, child of a tramp. I am not aware of any other case in town."

In the Dublin Registration District the registered births amounted to 179—89 boys and 90 girls; and the registered deaths to 153—82 males and 71 females.

The deaths, which are 8 under the average number for the corresponding week of the last ten years, represent an annual rate of mortality of 23·0 in every 1,000 of the population. Omitting the deaths (numbering 2) of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the district, the rate was 22·7 per 1,000. During the first forty-two weeks of the current year the death-rate averaged 24·9, and was 2·3 under the mean rate in the corresponding period of the ten years 1881—1890.

Twenty-three deaths from zymotic diseases were registered, being equal to the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 1 over the number for the week ended October 17. They comprise 4 from whooping-cough, 1 from diphtheria, 5 from enteric fever, 9 from diarrhoea, and 1 from dysentery.

Forty-two cases of enteric fever were admitted to hospital, being 2 over the number of admissions for the preceding week. Twenty-five enteric fever patients were discharged, 4 died, and 167 remained under treatment on Saturday, being 13 over the number in hospital at the close of the preceding week.

The hospital admissions for the week include 3 cases of scarlatina, but no cases of either measles or typhus were received.

The number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system registered is 22, being 6 under the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 5 under the number for the week ended October 17. The 22 deaths comprise 13 from bronchitis and 6 from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs.

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In the week ending Saturday, October 31, the mortality in twenty-eight large English towns, including London (in which the rate was 16·7), was equal to an average annual death-rate of 18·1 per 1,000 persons living. The average rate for eight principal towns of Scotland was 22·5 per 1,000. In Glasgow the rate was 27·5, but in Edinburgh it was only 13·1.

The average annual death-rate represented by the deaths registered in the sixteen principal town districts of Ireland was 21·0 per 1,000 of the unrevised population, based on the Census of 1891.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the sixteen districts were equal to an annual rate of 4·8 per 1,000, the rates varying from 0·0 in eleven of the districts to 4·7 in Kilkenny—the 5 deaths from all causes registered in that district comprising 1 from diarrhœa. Among the 115 deaths from all causes registered in Belfast are 1 from scarlatina, 2 from whooping-cough, 3 from enteric fever, and 3 from diarrhœa.

In the Dublin Registration District the registered births amounted to 137—72 boys and 65 girls; and the registered deaths to 161—82 males and 79 females.

The deaths, which are 4 under the average number for the corresponding week of the last ten years, represent an annual rate of mortality of 24·2 in every 1,000 of the population. Omitting the deaths (numbering 6) of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the district, the rate was 23·3 per 1,000. During the first forty-three weeks of the current year the death-rate averaged 24·9, and was 2·2 under the mean rate in the corresponding period of the ten years 1881–1890.

The number of deaths from zymotic diseases registered is 19, being 5 below the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 4 under the number for the week ended October 24. The 19 deaths comprise 3 from whooping-cough, 1 from diphtheria, 7 from enteric fever, and 6 from diarrhœa.

The number of cases of enteric fever admitted to hospital is 36, being a decline of 6 as compared with the admissions for the preceding week. Twenty-seven enteric fever patients were discharged, 3 died, and 173 remained under treatment on Saturday, being 6 over the number in hospital on Saturday, October 24.

The hospital admissions for the week include, also, 1 case of each of the following diseases:—Measles, scarlatina, and typhus. One case of measles, 5 cases of scarlatina, and 4 of typhus remained under treatment in hospital on Saturday.

Thirty-two deaths from diseases of the respiratory system were registered, being 10 over the number for the preceding week, and 1 over the average for the 43rd week of the last ten years. They consist of 21 from bronchitis, 10 from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, and 1 from laryngitis.

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In the week ending Saturday, November 7, the mortality in twenty-eight large English towns, including London (in which the rate was 17·8), was equal to an average annual death-rate of 19·3 per 1,000 persons living. The average rate for eight principal towns of Scotland was 25·2 per 1,000. In Glasgow the rate was 27·8, and in Edinburgh it was 21·8.

The average annual death-rate in the sixteen principal town districts of Ireland was 24·7 per 1,000 of the population (unrevised) according to the recent Census.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the sixteen districts were equal to an annual rate of 2·6 per 1,000, the rates varying from 0·0 in eight of the districts to 4·6 in Lurgan—the 5 deaths from all causes registered in that district comprising 1 from diarrhœa. Among the 125 deaths from all causes registered in Belfast are 1 from scarlatina, 4 from whooping-cough, 2 from diphtheria, 2 from enteric fever, and 3 from diarrhœa.

In the Dublin Registration District the registered births amounted to 163—83 boys and 80 girls; and the registered deaths to 209—100 males and 109 females.

The deaths, which are 33 over the average number for the corresponding week of the last ten years, represent an annual rate of mortality of 31·4 in every 1,000 of the population. Omitting the deaths (numbering 7) of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the district, the rate was 30·3 per 1,000. During the first forty-four weeks of the current year the death-rate averaged 25·0, and was 2·1 under the mean rate in the corresponding period of the ten years 1881–1890.

Thirty-three deaths from zymotic diseases were registered, being 8 over the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 14 over the number for the week ended October 31. They comprise 1 from measles, 2 from scarlatina, 1 from whooping-cough, 14 from enteric fever (being 9 over the average number of deaths from that disease in the corresponding week of the last ten years), 6 from diarrhœa, 3 from dysentery, and 1 from erysipelas.

Thirty-eight cases of enteric fever were admitted to hospital, being 2 over the admissions for the preceding week, but 4 under the number for the week ended October 24. Twenty-one enteric fever patients were discharged, 2 died, and 191 remained under treatment on Saturday, being 15 over the number in hospital at the close of the preceding week.

The hospital admissions for the week include, also, 2 cases of measles and 1 case of scarlatina, but no cases of typhus were received. Two cases of measles, 6 of scarlatina, and 4 of typhus remained under treatment in hospital on Saturday.

Diseases of the respiratory system caused 35 deaths, being 2 in excess of the average for the corresponding week of the last ten years, and 3 over the number for the week ended October 31. The 35 deaths comprise 25 from bronchitis and 7 from pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs.

## METEOROLOGY.

*Abstract of Observations made in the City of Dublin, Lat. 53° 20' N.  
Long. 6° 15' W., for the Month of October, 1891.*

Mean Height of Barometer,	-	-	-	29·626 inches
Maximal Height of Barometer (on 31st, at 9 a.m.),	30·647	„		
Minimal Height of Barometer (on 13th, at 3 30 p.m.)	28·251	„		
Mean Dry-bulb Temperature,	-	-	-	48·2°.
Mean Wet-bulb Temperature,	-	-	-	45·8°.
Mean Dew-point Temperature,	-	-	-	43·1°.
Mean Elastic Force (Tension) of Aqueous Vapour,	-			·280 inch.
Mean Humidity,	-	-	-	83·3 per cent.
Highest Temperature in Shade (on 4th)	-	-		62·7°.
Lowest Temperature in Shade (on 25th),	-	-		33·0°.
Lowest Temperature on Grass (Radiation) (on 25th),	28·0°.			
Mean Amount of Cloud,	-	-	-	41·6 per cent.
Rainfall (on 13 days),	-	-	-	3·590 inches.
Greatest Daily Rainfall (on 13th),	-	-	-	1·176 inch.
General Directions of Wind,	-	-	-	S., S.W., W.

*Remarks.*

October, 1891, may well be described as a month of contrasts. At the beginning some fine, warm autumnal days were experienced, interrupted indeed by a gale and heavy rain on the 5th. From the 8th to the 18th was a period of violent gales and heavy rains, with brief intervals of fine weather and very unsteady temperature. Then followed a week of low barometer, but fair weather and low temperature in Ireland, heavy rains and gales in England. The closing period, from the 25th to the 31st, was fine and quiet, with ground frosts and local fogs at night, bright and warm sunshine by day, with easterly winds.

In Dublin the arithmetical mean temperature (49·5°) was slightly below the average (49·7°); the mean dry bulb readings at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. were 48·2°. In the twenty-six years ending with 1890, October was coldest in 1880 (M. T. = 45·4°), and in 1885 (M. T. = 45·5°), and warmest in 1876 (M. T. = 53·1°). In 1886, the M. T. was as high as 52·0°; in the year 1879 (the “cold year”), it was 49·7°. In 1887, it was as low as 47·3°; in 1888, it was 49·1°; in 1889, it was only 48·1°; and in 1890, it was 51·7°.

The mean height of the barometer was 29·626 inches, or 0·214 inch below the corrected average value for October—namely, 29·840 inches. The mercury rose to 30·647 inches at 9 a.m. of the 31st, and fell to 28·251 inches at 3 30 p.m. of the 13th. This was the lowest reading recorded in Dublin since the memorable 8th of December, 1886, when the barometer sank to 27·758 inches at 2 30 p.m. The observed range

of atmospherical pressure was, therefore, not less than 2·396 inches—that is, a little less than two inches and four-tenths.

The mean temperature deduced from daily readings of the dry bulb thermometer at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. was 48·2°, or 8·2° below the value for September, and 9·0° below that for August, 1891. The arithmetical mean of the maximal and minimal readings was 49·5°, compared with a twenty-five years' average of 49·7°. Using the formula, *Mean Temp.* = *Min.* + (*Max.*—*Min.* × ·486), the value was 49·3°, or 0·2° below the average mean temperature for October, calculated in the same way, in the twenty-five years, 1865–89, inclusive (49·5°). On the 4th, the thermometer in the screen rose to 62·7°—wind, S.S.W.; on the 25th the temperature fell to 33·0°—wind, W.N.W. The minimum on the grass was 28·0° also on the 25th; on six nights the thermometer sank to or below 32° on the grass.

The rainfall was as much as 3·590 inches, distributed over only 13 days—the rainfall was above, while the rainy days were largely below, the average. The average rainfall for October in the twenty-five years 1865–89, inclusive, was 3·106 inches, and the average number of rainy days was 17·6. In 1880 the rainfall in October was very large—7·358 inches on 15 days. In 1875, also, 7·049 inches fell on 26 days. On the other hand, in 1890 only ·639 inch fell on but 11 days, in 1884 only ·834 inch was measured on but 14 days, and in 1868 only ·856 inch on 15 days. In 1888, the rainfall was 1·227 inch on 16 days, and in 1889 no less than 4·853 inches fell on 22 days. From these figures it will be seen that October, 1890, proved the driest on record for more than a quarter of a century at least.

Solar halos were seen on the 2nd, 7th, and 22nd. High winds were noted on 12 days, and attained the force of a gale on as many as eight occasions—the 5th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 18th, and 27th. The atmosphere was more or less foggy in Dublin on the 15th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th, and 30th. Lightning was seen on the evenings of the 1st, 6th, and 20th. Hail fell on the 17th.

Favourable weather held in Dublin during the first three days.

Strong southerly and southwesterly winds, rising to the force of a gale in different parts of Western Europe at different times, and heavy rains, were the leading features of the weather of the week ended Saturday, the 10th. Dublin escaped the bad weather to a great and even a singular extent. Throughout the period, a large anticyclone was found over Central Russia, where the barometer stood persistently as high as 30·4 to 30·6 inches. At the same time a succession of large and deep depressions passed northwards or northeastwards along the Atlantic seaboard of Western Europe, causing the high winds and heavy rains already mentioned. From time to time the main system of low pressure threw off secondary depressions, which travelled across England and the North

Sea, so that broken weather spread to those districts also. In fact, the weather in England was much worse than that experienced in Dublin, where many fair intervals were enjoyed. On Tuesday evening lightning was seen, and thunder and lightning occurred in the S. and S.E. of England on Wednesday afternoon and night. In Dublin the mean barometrical pressure was only 29·493 inches. The barometer fell from 30·038 inches at 9 a.m. of Sunday (wind, S.S.W.), to 28·990 inches at 9 a.m. of Tuesday (wind, S.W.). The corrected mean temperature was 54·2°. The mean dry bulb temperature at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. was 53·2°. The screened thermometers rose to 62·7° on Sunday, the 4th. There were gales on Monday and Thursday. Lightning was seen on Tuesday evening. A solar halo appeared next morning. The rainfall was ·907 inch on four days, the maximal fall in 24 hours being ·659 inch on Monday. The prevailing winds were S. and S.W.

A most tempestuous, cold, and rainy period—such is the record of the week ended Saturday, the 17th. No less than three barometrical depressions of the first importance travelled across the British Islands and the adjoining seas during the week, while numerous secondary depressions of less intensity were observed from time to time. The first of the prime disturbances lay to the N.W. of Ireland on Sunday morning, when the barometer was as low as 28·82 inches at Belmullet. Fresh gales from S. to S.W. and heavy rain accompanied this disturbance. Monday, the 12th, was fine but not settled, and in the evening heavy showers fell. On Tuesday the most intense of the three primary depressions mentioned above passed right over Ireland. The centre of the cyclone crossed the Co. Antrim in the evening, and the barometer fell to about 28 inches—at 6 p.m. the reading at Malin Head was 28·08 inches, and it was blowing a whole gale from E.N.E. At the same hour the barometer read 28·13 inches at Donaghadee, where there was a fresh gale from W.S.W. Thunder and lightning occurred in many places, and torrents of rain fell—particularly in Dublin (1·168 inches in 5 hours on Tuesday). The third great depression was found right over the North of Ireland at 8 a.m. of Friday, the 16th, the barometer being down to 28·87 inches near the centre. It caused sudden and violent gales with heavy falls of rain. On Saturday, the wind at last veered to N.W. and the weather moderated and brightened. In Dublin the mean height of the barometer was only 29·255 inches—pressure ranging between 28·251 inches at 3 30 p.m. of Tuesday (wind, S.W.) and 29·894 inches at 9 p.m. of Saturday (wind, W.N.W.). The corrected mean temperature was 48·6°, the mean dry bulb readings at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. being still lower—viz., 47·2°. The thermometers in the screen rose to 57·9° on Tuesday, having fallen to 39·2° during the preceding night. Rain fell daily to the total amount of 2·437 inches. Of this quantity, 1·176 inches fell on Tuesday. Hail was noted on Saturday. The prevailing winds were S. and S.W.



As regards the week ended Saturday, the 24th, until Wednesday the weather remained in a very disturbed state in all parts of the United Kingdom. After that day, however, a marked improvement took place in Ireland and Scotland, while it remained wet and tempestuous in England until Friday. On Sunday an extensive depression passed over Ireland towards N.N.E., "surging" eastwards at the same time. A downpour of rain and violent southerly gales accompanied this disturbance, the high spring tides increasing the damage done by it along the coasts. This system had scarcely passed away when a new and still more serious depression arrived off the west coast of Ireland, where the barometer fell below 28·60 inches on Wednesday morning. And now a curious thing happened—the barometer began to rise over Ireland while it continued to fall over England. The result was that in the former country the wind moderated and the sky cleared, while strong gales and continuous rain were reported from England. The last four days were really beautifully fine on the east coast of Ireland. Winter set in with great severity in the North of Europe during this week—the 8 a.m. temperatures at Archangel were 19°, 15°, 6°, 8°, 14°, and 18°, up to Friday. In Dublin the mean height of the barometer was 29·356 inches—pressure ranging between 29·917 inches at 9 a.m. of Sunday (wind, S.S.W.) and 28·904 inches at 9 a.m. of Wednesday (wind, S.). The corrected mean temperature was 47·5°. The highest shade temperature was 56·6° on Tuesday; the lowest was 39·0° on Saturday. The mean dry bulb temperature at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. was 45·7°. Rain fell in measurable amount on two days, the total fall being ·244 inch, of which ·200 inch was referred to Sunday. The prevailing winds were—first, S., afterwards W. Lightning was seen on Tuesday evening.

A remarkable and most acceptable improvement in the weather was observed during the week ended Saturday, the 31st, more particularly in Ireland and Scotland. Already on Sunday an anticyclone, or area of high atmospherical pressure, was in course of formation over Scandinavia and the Norwegian Sea. This system moved gradually southwards and at the same time increased in intensity, until towards the close of the week it covered the British Islands and adjacent districts with central readings of the barometer as high as 30·74 inches. Exceptionally fine, quiet, bright weather held in Ireland after Tuesday. But up to and including that day strong easterly or northeasterly winds and much cloud prevailed, owing to the advance across the Peninsula and France of a succession of low pressure systems. These caused gloomy, wet, and stormy weather in the South of England, and heavy rainfalls in Spain and France. After Tuesday, conditions became tranquil and the sky cleared, so that sharp frosts and fogs occurred at night, while the days were sunny, dry, and bracing. At the end of the week depressions were again appearing over Northern Europe, where with a consequent shift of

wind to S.W. a sudden rise of temperature took place, amounting at Haparanda, on the Gulf of Bothnia, to  $33^{\circ}$ . At that station the thermometer read  $-1^{\circ}$  F. at 8 a.m. of Thursday but  $+32^{\circ}$  F. at the same hour on Friday. In Dublin the mean height of the barometer was 30.296 inches, pressure steadily increasing from 29.905 inches at 9 a.m. of Sunday (wind, W.N.W.) to 30.647 inches at 9 a.m. of Saturday (wind, E.S.E.). The corrected mean temperature was  $45.4^{\circ}$ . The mean dry bulb temperature at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. was  $45.1^{\circ}$ . The thermometers in the screen rose to  $54.7^{\circ}$  on Monday, having fallen to  $33.0^{\circ}$  on Sunday. Very light showers fell on Sunday and Tuesday, but yielded only .002 inch of rain. There was an easterly gale on Tuesday afternoon. The prevalent winds during the week were N.E. and E.

The rainfall in Dublin during the ten months ending October 31st has amounted to 21.610 inches on 148 days, compared with 12.366 inches on 123 days during the same period in 1887, 19.219 inches on 147 days in 1888, 24.789 inches on 169 days in 1889, 21.494 inches on 162 days in 1890, and a 25 years' average of 22.840 inches on 160.4 days.

At Knockdolian, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, the rainfall was as much as 5.122 inches on 14 days. Of this amount 1.180 inches fell on the 5th, .750 inch on the 13th, .720 inch on the 10th, and .680 inch on the 18th. The rainfall in October, 1890, was only .600 inch, distributed over 13 days. Of this quantity .160 inch fell on the 6th, and .120 inch on the 14th. The rainfall at Greystones in October, 1889, was no less than 6.935 inches on 22 days, or more than eleven times as great as the fall in October, 1890.

From January 1st, 1891, up to October 31st, rain fell at Knockdolian, Greystones, on 140 days, to the total amount of 24.744 inches.

#### HONOUR TO AN IRISH AUTHOR.

It will interest our readers to learn that Dr. Lindsay's "Climatic Treatment of Consumption" has been translated into French by Dr. F. Lalesque, Chef de Service au Sanatorium d'Arcachon. The publisher is M. Octave Doin, Place de l'Odéon, Paris. A translation of the same work into Polish is about to be undertaken by Dr. Neugebauer, of Warsaw. When reviewing Dr. Lindsay's book, in August, 1887, we expressed the opinion, without fear of contradiction, that it was an excellent book. Its subject-matter is well arranged and embodied in terse, clear language. It rivets the reader's attention, while it can scarcely fail to instruct even the most erudite student of medical climatology. We are glad to see that our encomiums are endorsed by our continental *confrères* in both France and Poland.