

**THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE ON
TUBERCULOUS DISEASE; WITH AN
APPENDIX OF CORROBORATIVE
OBSERVATIONS AND NOTICES OF
SEVERAL PLACES OF WINTER RESORT**

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The Effect of Climate on Tuberculous Disease; With an Appendix of Corroborative Observations and Notices of Several Places of Winter Resort by Edwin Lee

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EDWIN LEE

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THE
EFFECT OF CLIMATE
ON
TUBERCULOUS DISEASE,

BEING (WITH ADDITIONS) THE
ESSAY FOR WHICH THE FISKE FUND PRIZE

WAS AWARDED TO

EDWIN LEE, M.D.,

CORRESPONDING AND HONORARY MEMBER OF SEVERAL MEDICAL ACADEMIES
AND SOCIETIES OF FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AND SPAIN.

With an Appendix of
CORROBORATIVE OBSERVATIONS
AND NOTICES OF SEVERAL
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P R E F A C E.

THE curability of tuberculous disease of the lungs being undeniable, notwithstanding the general failure of the endeavours to attain the desired object by purely medicinal means, and especially by the adoption of the empirical modes of treatment, so constantly obtruded upon the notice of the public by means of the newspapers, the attention of the best-informed members of the medical profession has naturally been more particularly directed of late years to those hygienic agencies, which, by effecting favourable modifications in the constitution, would seem to be best calculated to strike at the root of the evil. Among these agencies, climate necessarily occupies the first place; yet, owing

to the difficulties experienced in obtaining impartial information respecting the peculiarities of particular climates, and their action upon diseased conditions of the system, the study of medical climatology is still in a very backward state. A distinguished scientific writer remarks that, "That part of meteorology which has for its object the study of atmospheric influences upon man in health and disease, meteorological hygiene, will some day be one of the branches the most cultivated, as it is one of the most useful of the sciences relating to the vital organization;"¹ and, in proportion as the study advances, there is every reason to expect that much more will be accomplished, than heretofore, towards the prevention and removal of several diseases, intractable to ordinary medication. The question of the influence of climate on the course of pulmonary tuberculation, has, indeed, of late attracted a larger share of attention than at any previous period; and prizes were almost simultaneously offered, by two medical bodies, for the best essays on the subject—the Acade-

¹ M. Babinet (de l'Institut). *Etudes sur les Sciences d'Observation*. 1856.

mie de Médecine, and the society which has honoured my essay with its approval. The French version was sent in to compete for the prize of the Académie, which, however, was awarded to a naval surgeon, (an abstract of whose Memoir is given in the Appendix,) who has treated the question more particularly with reference to the effect produced upon the disease, by a protracted residence in hot and unhealthy climates, as manifested among the troops and sailors stationed in the French colonies, and on the adjacent seas, from which data the author draws conclusions unfavourable to the remedial efficacy of warm climates generally, the justness of which is, however, disproved by the experience of physicians, who have had the best opportunities of forming an accurate estimation of the value of climate in the places resorted to by patients labouring under the various forms of pulmonary disease.

In the following pages, it has been my chief object to attempt to elucidate the mode in which a residence in suitable climates acts most beneficially in eradicating the disposition to pulmonary consumption, and in arresting the pro-

gress of the disease when existing, with a view to the employment of this remedial agent upon more certain indications, in particular cases, than heretofore. The essay was published last year in the "American Journal of Medical Science." It is now enlarged by additional observations of other writers, as well as of my own, and by fuller notices of some of the places of winter resort.

6, UPPER HYDE PARK STREET,
NOVEMBER, 1857.

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