

**THE BATHS OF FRANCE,
CENTRAL GERMANY,
AND SWITZERLAND**

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The Baths of France, Central Germany, and Switzerland by Edwin Lee

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EDWIN LEE

**THE BATHS OF FRANCE,
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AND SWITZERLAND**

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OF
FRANCE,
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AND
SWITZERLAND.

BY

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TION OF PRUSSIA; THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETIES OF
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1854

PREFACE.

MANY years have elapsed since my account of the "Watering Places of the Continent"* appeared, the subsequent editions were published under the title of the "Baths of Germany," and contained more detailed information respecting their remedial properties; some brief notices being appended of the chief French and Swiss Baths, which were comparatively little resorted to by English visitors. The number has, however, greatly increased within the last two or three years; and I have reason to believe, now that the treatment of chronic diseases by means of mineral waters is becoming more general, that as these French Baths are at the present day so much easier of access than formerly, a large proportion of in-

* Published by Longman and Co.

valids and their friends are desirous of more information respecting them. I have, consequently, so greatly extended the portion of the volume which treats of them that it may almost be considered as a new work. The account of all the places described is derived, with three or four exceptions, from personal observation; and in estimating the statements made by local practitioners and others, I have endeavoured to avoid being unduly biassed by those of a too partial nature, which are frequently put forth in favour of particular places; my object being to present an impartial view of the respective properties and therapeutical applications of the springs treated of, upon which practitioners, and others whom the subject concerns, may rely with some degree of confidence.

13, Curzon Street, June, 1854.

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PART I.

BATHS OF FRANCE.

FRANCE possesses a great abundance of mineral springs of the highest efficacy, though differing somewhat in their nature and properties from those of Germany. Thus, while Germany contains scarcely any sulphurous springs of importance, with the exception of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Pyrenean departments of France are especially rich in this respect. On the other hand, there exists in Germany a great variety of warm and cold gaseous, and strongly mineralised saline, acidulous, tonic and aperient, and chalybeate waters, in which France is comparatively deficient. Of these may be mentioned Carlsbad, Marienbad, Franzensbad, Kissingen, Homburg, Schwalbach, Bocklet, Bruckenaue, Fachingen, and Selters, which have no counterpart in France. There are, it is true, a great many chalybeate waters, especially in the northern and north-western parts;

and some are, doubtless, very efficient as tonic remedies, but, in general, like those of England, they do not contain the carbonic acid gas and saline constituents which conduce so materially to the digestibility, and absorption of these waters into the blood. They are, moreover, little if at all used in the form of bath, which is perhaps a more effectual means of obtaining benefit from them than their internal administration. With regard to saline thermal, alkaline, and slightly mineralised springs, France may be considered as being almost as well supplied as Germany, and in some instances better. Thus, although Bourbonne-les-Bains, Mont d'Or, and Balaruc are not so extensively available as the more strongly impregnated waters of Wiesbaden, Ems, on the other hand, is inferior to Vichy in cases where a course of alkaline thermal waters is required; while Bagnères de Bigorre, Plombières, Neris, and Luxeuil may be considered equal in point of general properties and efficacy to Baden-Baden, Gastein, Wildbad, and Schlangenbad.

Germany possesses an advantage over France with respect to salt iodurated and bromated cold springs which contain a large proportion of gas, and many patients to whose cases this class of waters is applicable, annually derive advantage from those of Kreutznach, Nauheim, Soden, and others; for though there are some salt-springs in the Pyrenees and in other parts of France, they are less rich in constituents, and are but little resorted