

lent are fevers, diarrhœas, inflammations, dropsy, catarrhs, ophthalmia, asthma, dysentery, rheumatism, scrofula, and venereal.

These diseases, notwithstanding the absence of apparent causes, are frequent among the natives; but many of them are brought on by living in their grass-houses, which are by no means impervious to the weather, and are consequently often wet. Another frequent cause is the partial decomposition of the grasses with which they are thatched on the roof and sides. In passing into them I invariably experienced a smell of mustiness, and a mouldy appearance is frequently seen about their mats and tapas. From the openness of the houses they of course are subject to all the atmospheric changes, which must naturally induce disease by the constant checking of perspiration, a cause that is rendered still more active by their sleeping on damp ground.

Ophthalmia is much complained of, particularly about Honolulu, Lahaina, and some places on Kauai: this might be ascribed to the quantity of dust that is daily put in circulation by the trade-winds, were it not that the disease is equally prevalent where this cause does not exist. I have heard it suggested that the prevalence of the strong trade-winds, with the salt spray driven by them, may be another cause.

Cutaneous diseases are usually caused by the want of cleanliness; for, although the natives are in the habit of bathing frequently, yet, from my observations of their customs and dwellings, I cannot but deem them a filthy people: the tapa and cotton clothing of both sexes is worn until it is fairly in rags, and has become so dirty as to be disgusting: they seldom if ever think of a change of raiment. Their houses are shared with their domestic fowls, dogs, and pigs, and are rarely free from the dirt that so many denizens must produce. One sees that most filthy disease, the itch, not unfrequently affecting the larger portion of the inmates of a house, and I could not help wondering that so little improvement had manifested itself among them, in their habitations and mode of living.

My friend, Dr. Judd, assured me, that hepatic diseases were extremely rare, and that this ocean seems to be peculiarly exempt from all biliary diseases. The ground of this belief, is the almost total absence of them on board our whaling fleet. The physicians of Honolulu and Lahaina, where these ships often stop in large numbers, assured me that they seldom heard of a case. These islands are indeed little subject to these diseases, or the typhus, bilious, and yellow fevers, which prevail so extensively on the continents. They are also free from the measles, small-pox, &c.

The diseases of children are frequent, but may chiefly be accounted for by the want of cleanliness and attention from their parents: hence