

as Leaf has shown that the gland is directly connected with a vein, we can understand that, if the gland be allowed to go on suppurating for a long while, as sometimes happens, a large amount of toxic material is being absorbed over a long period of time. And furthermore, it is passing direct into the venous circulation. A suppurating gland in venereal cases does not break down by one centre, but from several. If a section be made of such a gland several foci of different ages and sizes will be found throughout its substance, and so long as one centre of suppuration remains, even if this centre be on the deep aspect of the gland, the wound in the groin will never heal. It is, therefore, quite useless making incisions through the skin over the gland. Suppuration will go on until the whole gland has necrosed. It is, therefore, better to anticipate matters by removing the gland at once.

The skin around the wound should be carefully asepticated, and when the patient is under the anæsthetic, the parts should be well scrubbed with a nail brush, the œdematous skin around the wound cut away with scissors, and the necrosing gland dissected away, if possible, or if not, scraped away with a Volkmann's spoon. The cavity should then be swabbed out with some 1 in 40 carbolic. Having in this way converted a foul area into a clean cavity, silk-worm gut sutures should be inserted, a small drainage tube put in at one end to facilitate the removal of serum, dressings and bandages firmly applied, and the thigh put up in slight flexion. If the skin is very œdematous, the stitches will probably come away, and the wound will have to heal up aseptically from the bottom. As a general rule, however, the wound heals by first intention, and the stitches can be removed on the tenth day.

As regards the treatment of the joint condition the affected joint should be placed on a splint to prevent flexion and subsequent contractions. Mercury and iodide of potassium seem to relieve the pains.

The nervous lesions above described appear to be incurable; hypodermic injections of strychnine seem to be of the most real use.

NOTE ON THE CLIMATE OF ERYTHREA.

BY G. M. GILES,

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THE courtesy of the Italian Government in giving to our expedition against the mad Mullah a free passage across the part of the Somali Peninsula, formed by their colony, has invested this little known corner of the globe with an unexpected interest for English men, and in especial for the Anglo-Indian community, many members of which are actually employed in the present service. It has, therefore, occurred

to me that a note on the Italian official statistics on the subject might be of interest to the readers of the *Gazette*, and through the kindness of Professor Palazzo, the Director of the Italian Meteorological Office, I have been kindly furnished with a couple of pamphlets which practically contain all that has yet been printed on the subject. A very complete set of observatories has been lately established, but as yet the statistics lie in manuscript and are necessarily as yet far too short a period to be of any great value.

One of these pamphlets contains a very able account of the climate of the Litoral zone as exemplified by the port of Massina and Assab, and is from the hand of Dr. Giovanni Petella, one of our *confrères* in the Italian Naval Service. The other on the elevated inland post of Addi Ugri is from the pen of Captain A. M. Tauredi, a military officer, both brochures showing to the full the ability and care which characterizes the Italian man of science.

Most of us know something of the amenities of the climate of the southern end of the Red Sea, and though Dr. Petella has a word or two to say in its favour, and has evidently experienced something of the queer attraction, which all climates including the worst seem to exercise on those who have endured them for some time; yet it must be confessed that a perusal of the statistics he affords leaves one more than ever impressed with the undesirability of Somaliland as a place of residence.

In this part of the Red Sea coast, we find an uniform high temperature, 68°F. being about as low a temperature as is experienced in the coldest month. A high relative humidity, and for any cooling effect it can have a practical absence of rain. The very depths of the sea, as far as the word has any application to so shallow a basin, are hot; the temperature of the sea at the surface being as high as 96° in September and about 92° at five fathoms depth; and even in the coldest months, the surface water seldom falls below 80°.

Geologically speaking, the formation of the land, putting aside of course comparatively modern coralline formations on the plains close to the coast, belongs entirely to the primitive rocks, gneiss, mica-chists, and ferruginous crystalline formations predominating. "A landscape cast in virgin copper with here and there in the mountain background, a few clumps of palms, scraggy thorn bushes, and tamarisks, and tiny points of *Salvadora Persica* to accentuate rather than modify the warmth of colouring, is all that meets the eye. A sky steel grey in its shimmering heat at noon, and furnace-like in its fierce colouring at sun down, vaults over a foreground of thirty-inch dust." Why on earth the Italian and the Briton, inheritors of the two best climates of the world, should elect to push their flags to such a land concerns not Major Smith or Hony. Captain Fabro, but the

queer anti-scientific folks they call statesmen, who send the two gallant officers there to make their choice between heat-stroke and the broad spears of the man to the country born. Ten years hence, I suppose the meteorological offices of London and Rome will possess much more exact data, the taste of the local spear-man in printed piece-goods will be utterly debased, and Major Smith and Hony. Captain Fabro will be commemorated only by appropriate tablets in a couple of old-world churches of the Castelli Romani and the far away lands in the North.

To the other climatic amenities of Massana may be added the additional discomfort, that, at low tide, extensive flats of coral reefs are laid bare, which under the fierce sun, exhale an ancient and fish-like smell which is likened by Dr. Petella to that of an ill cared for fish market.

During the summer, the wind is usually from the north, and is apt to fall dead calm in the mornings and evenings—a condition of things which, combined with a high relative humidity, causes great suffering.

The worst periods are, however, those when the Khamsin blows. A strong N.-N.-W. wind, intensely hot and dry, so called from an Arabic word meaning fifty, because it is supposed to predominate for about 25 days before and after the summer solstice. Fortunately it usually lasts for a much shorter period at Massana, and its effects are generally modified by sea breeze in the afternoon, but while it lasts, after a brief sensation of coolness, on account of the sudden fall in the relative humidity of the air, and consequent rapid evaporation from the body surface, the effect is that of being exposed to the blast from a furnace. Coming as it does, direct from the Nubian desert, it is loaded with the finest dust to an extent that makes it difficult to breathe, so that those caught by it in the open are fain to lie prone with their faces wrapped in their garments.

The rains are very scanty and most capricious in their distribution, and about the only definite prediction that can be made is that it will not rain during June.

There is practically speaking no rainy season, the average rainfall amounting only to 7.86 inches falling often in isolated heavy showers, at very uncertain periods, so that a month absolutely rainless in one year may be comparatively wet in the next. In so far as it can be said to possess a rainy season at all that of Massana falls during the winter, from December to March, in sharp contrast to that of the *Hinterland*, within the mountains, where, as elsewhere in these latitudes, it occurs in July and August during the time of the S.-W. monsoon.

Rain falls on less than 30 days in the year, and in the majority of these, the quantity col-

lected is too small to have any appreciable effect. A climate altogether abominable, as may be judged by the following table of the principal climatic data:—

Tabular statement of the principal climatic data of Massana, on Red Sea coast—Lat. 15° 36' 41" N., Long. 39° 40' E.

MONTH.	Mean Temperatures.		Mean Maximum Temperatures.		Mean Minimum Temperatures.		Relative Humidity %	Rainfall.		Number of rainy days.
	Fnhgt.	Centgd.	Fnhgt.	Centgd.	Fnhgt.	Centgd.		Inches.	Mm.	
January ...	78.0	25.6	90.4	32.4	68.0	20.0	75	2.05	52.1	7.2
February ...	78.9	26.0	92.2	33.4	68.4	20.2	76	0.63	16.2	5.1
March ...	81.0	27.2	94.8	34.9	70.1	21.2	74	0.68	17.5	3.6
April ...	84.3	29.0	98.4	36.8	72.8	22.6	69	0.11	2.5	1.2
May ...	88.5	31.3	101.7	38.7	76.6	24.7	66	0.56	14.1	1.1
June ...	92.4	33.5	105.9	41.0	80.7	27.0	51
July ...	91.3	34.8	108.6	42.5	84.7	29.2	56	6.13	3.3	1.3
August ...	94.6	34.7	106.7	41.5	83.4	28.5	57	0.26	5.7	1.7
September ...	92.0	33.3	103.0	39.4	78.4	25.7	60	0.17	4.0	1.0
October ...	87.4	31.7	98.7	37.0	77.2	25.1	60	0.35	9.0	1.0
November ...	84.3	29.0	95.2	35.1	75.0	23.8	65	0.78	20.0	2.1
December ...	80.7	27.0	92.0	33.3	69.6	20.8	70	2.27	57.6	3.7

In the above and following tables the data are furnished both in the English units of the Fahrenheit scale and inch, and in those in use on the continent, *viz.*, of the Centigrade thermometer and metre; the latter representing, of course, the original data, while the former are merely approximate transfigurations made by means of a scale.

Fortunately, as we leave the Red Sea behind us, the heavy moisture of the atmosphere changes to extreme dryness, and as most of the inland districts are elevated very considerably above the sea-level, the temperature never reaches such uncomfortable levels, and the climate of certain favoured regions is exceptionally good, contrasting very favourably with that of our most popular hill stations.

At a very little distance from the Red Sea, in fact, we find a definite rainy season at the normal period of the year—of July, August and September—with a smaller but quite definite *chota bursat* in March, April and May. The hottest time of the year is the spring, at which period of the year the air is intensely dry, the winds being mostly from the N.-E., while, however, a settled hill station, with well contrived appliances for the storage of water, may be a most desirable residence, it can easily be understood that, in view of the fact that the country is almost entirely waterless during the dry season, the sufferings of troops on the march, lying as the route necessarily will, for the most part along comparatively low lying valleys, walled in between bare sun-baked hills, can hardly be otherwise than severe. Geologically speaking, the country is a mass of primitive rocks, granite, gneiss and mica-schists predominating, the

surface being broken and the gradients severe, so that even in places where there is a respectable rainfall, none is retained in the soil, so that wells and springs are few and far between; and temperatures that would be tolerable enough with plenty to drink, become absolutely insupportable under the desiccating effects of an atmosphere, almost devoid of watery vapour and loaded with dust.

On the whole, however, Dr. Petella finds the climate of Massana less unhealthy than might be expected; for, although the moisture-loaded atmosphere produces in almost every one the most aggravated prickly heat, with the usual sequel of boils; malarial fever, typhoid, dysentery and hepatitis are comparatively rare, and he regards most of the so-called cases of climatic fever as being neither of malarial nor of other zymotic origin, but as simply the direct effects of heat, the fatal cases being mostly instances of true heat-stroke; while he finds that the temperature of even healthy adults is uniformly raised a degree or more (centigrade) above the normal during the continuance of the Khamsin.

The progressive improvement of the climate of the elevated inland plateaux is well shown in the following table:—

Table showing comparative mean monthly temperatures of four stations in Erythrea.

MONTH.	Massana, 6 m., 18 ft.		Ghinda, 962 m., 3,156 ft.		Cheren, 1,460 m., 4,790 ft.		Asmara, 2,327 m., 7,533 ft.	
	Fnhlt.	Centgd.	Fnhlt.	Centgd.	Fnhlt.	Centgd.	Fnhlt.	Centgd.
January	78.1	25.6	65.2	18.4	63.3	17.3	58.8	14.9
February	78.9	26.0	69.4	20.8	67.0	19.4	61.5	16.3
March	79.4	27.2	73.3	22.9	72.0	22.2	61.6	16.4
April	84.3	29.0	78.6	25.8	77.0	24.9	62.8	17.1
May	88.5	31.3	79.6	26.3	75.8	26.3	63.5	17.5
June	92.4	33.5	84.1	28.9	74.8	24.7	63.5	17.5
July	91.7	34.8	87.2	30.7	72.7	22.6	61.6	16.4
August	94.5	34.7	83.4	28.5	68.0	20.0	61.4	16.3
September	92.9	33.8	84.5	29.3	68.4	20.2	62.6	16.9
October	89.2	31.7	76.8	24.9	67.4	19.6	56.6	13.6
November	84.3	29.0	72.3	22.4	65.3	18.4	58.4	14.6
December	80.7	27.0	65.8	18.7	63.3	17.3	53.8	14.9

The above figures have not the same value as those of the preceding table, being taken from those of one year, whereas the others are the averages of several, but serve sufficiently well to illustrate the progressive fall of temperature for each month, as we ascend to higher levels above the sea.

Many of these elevated stations possess also quite a respectable rainfall, and must be well suited for adoption as health resorts, as may be judged from the following table of the principal climatic data compiled from the results of five years' observations furnished in Captain Taucred's pamphlet.

Climate of Addi-Ugri Serahi-Erythrea. Lat. 14° 53' N.; Long. 38° 48' 40" E. Elevation, 6,633 feet = 2,022 metres.

Month.	Mean temperatures.		Mean maximum temperatures.		Mean minimum temperatures.		Relative Humidity %	Rainfall.		Number of rainy days.
	Fnhlt.	Centgd.	Fnhlt.	Centgd.	Fnhlt.	Centgd.		Inches.	Mm.	
January	64.9	18.24	79.0	26.65	51.6	10.87	39.67	0.02	0.35	2.0
February	66.3	19.02	81.4	27.37	51.9	11.02	28.65	0.11	2.75	1.6
March	70.8	21.44	87.0	30.37	55.8	13.12	30.07	0.62	15.36	6.6
April	70.7	21.35	85.5	29.70	56.4	13.62	35.33	0.91	22.77	9.3
May	70.8	21.46	84.5	29.12	58.2	14.57	36.59	1.65	46.18	10.3
June	69.5	20.77	82.3	27.90	60.4	15.74	39.09	2.41	60.59	15.3
July	64.5	17.89	73.9	23.18	54.7	12.58	71.94	5.40	134.87	25.0
August	64.4	17.61	73.4	22.92	54.7	12.56	74.07	7.25	178.13	24.3
September	67.0	19.67	78.8	25.90	56.2	13.34	53.45	1.48	36.85	6.6
October	67.5	19.76	80.3	26.80	54.4	12.40	53.04	0.80	1.62	3.0
November	65.5	18.47	78.7	25.86	52.5	11.34	43.57	0.19	4.2	1.6
December	63.5	17.44	78.0	25.56	50.0	9.95	42.27	0.32	8.36	1.6

The mean annual temperature works out at 67.4° F. (19.6° C.), or nearly the same as that of Southern Italy, though it is a much more uniform climate; the annual range of temperature being much smaller. The annual rainfall amounts to 21 inches (512.34 mm), and there are 107 rainy days in the year, but, on the whole, the climate is an unusually dry one, the average relative humidity being only 45.67 per cent. The N.-E. and S.-W. monsoons have about the same relative duration as in India, and there is usually a moderate breeze. Occasionally, however, it is visited by cyclones of great violence, in one of which (on 26th September 1900) the anemometer registered the high velocity of 21.66 Km. per hour.

The station is said to be very healthy, though there is a certain amount of malaria to be met with at the end of the rains. It is to be hoped that similar spots are to be found within our own territory and that they will, if possible, be utilized as it appears probable that the campaign will prove of a most exhausting character to all engaged in it.

NOTE ON THE MYCOID BODY FOUND IN THE BLOOD CORPUSCLES IN REMITTENT FEVERS.

By W. LEONARD BRADDON, F.R.C.S., &c.,
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(Continued from page 170.)

The writer has sent a number of specimens stained by all of the processes named to the Editor of the Gazette, with a request that he would both pronounce his own opinion upon them, and submit them to those whose work has made them authorities upon the physiology, the pathology, or parasitology of the blood as well as upon the microscopic appearances of bodies which it may be possible to class among mycetozoa. It may be hoped therefore that the readers of the Journal