### [ANUARY 8, 1892.]

## SCIENCE.

to the atmosphere an "epidemic constitution." The influence of weather would be measured by its effect in providing an environment suitable to germ development. Thus moist weather, whether bleak or warm, would be found conducive to the spread of contagia, and so it is. This fact has often been attested by the extension of cholera, diarrhœa, and the exanthemata. A warm and dry day, on the contrary, tends to check morbid action of an infectious kind. This fact is susceptible of more than one explanation. We may, on the one hand, says Lancet, regard it as a consequence of the absence of that germ-fostering condition humidity; on the other, we cannot fail to be reminded that dry warmth and sunshine give the signal for an exodus from many crowded homes, for their freer ventilation, and consequently for diminution in the intensity of contagia. The exact value of weather changes in regard to this class of diseases, however, still is and must for some time remain sub judice. As for the ailments more usually associated with these changes - those, for example, more commonly known as inflammatory - the connection is here much more evident, and also in all likelihood, more direct. The association of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, and rheumatism with bleak and wet weather is too invariable to permit of our doubting its reality apart from any suggestion of septic agency.

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