CLIMATE AND CROPS.

HOW THE FOOD SUPPLIES OF THE EARTH ARE REGULATED.

Agriculture is the Basis of All Industries, but Not the Most Thickly Settled Areas Are Not by Any Means the Most Fertile Lands Populous.

Your readers may ask what will be the earth for mankind? This is a question which is often mooted and which is answered in a great many different ways. As all food is either directly or indirectly derived from the vegetable kingdom, and the plants need the light and the heat of the sun, the question as to how the light and heat are distributed is an important one. If we assume (which is true) that only 40 per cent of the heat of the sun reaches the earth, the remainder being absorbed by the atmosphere, then latitude 40 degrees north and south will receive 27 per cent; 30 degrees north and south, 36 per cent; 20 degrees north and south, 32 per cent, and the poles only 17 per cent of the heat received at the equator. Therefore the countries which on account of the amount of heat received are in the most favorable circumstances to produce a great amount of vegetable food, be in the tropics, provided the other conditions of plant life is considered—that is, dampness.

In Europe people were particularly impressed with the information communicated by Humboldt, on his return from his American journey, concerning the great amount of food furnished by the banana in tropical countries. It was later proved, however, that the distinguished naturalist was mistaken. But, in nothing so high a state of productiveness as the banana, and, second, because the banana is not generally suitable to be used as the principal food for man. As the grains are cultivated wherever agriculture is advanced, in the damp parts of south and east Asia we find rice, in the dry parts of India and the greater part of tropical Africa, millet and sago, and in tropical America, principally corn.

The banana is even less fitted to furnish the staple food than the potato. As an economy, however, like the potato in the wealthy countries of Europe and North America, it is very important. As a dense population is only possible where there is a certain amount of cultivation, we must keep in mind the experience of many thousand years and accept the grains as the base of nourishment.

The Little Antilles and Mauritius islands are of intense fertility and export a great deal of sugar and liquor and only industrial products, but a good deal of foodstuff. The ground therefore does not directly nourish the population. Several parts of India export foodstuffs, and there is no trustworthy information as to the tolerable nourishment of the people. Tonquin and the lower Indo-Chinese in France indicate trustworthy statistics. Java, with Madura, is alone added to our statistical accounts.

This country is sufficiently large, it furnishes good statistics of agriculture and commerce, and the imports and exports are carefully monitored. The population is about as dense as in Belgium and Saxony, but life is supported under very different circumstances. Rammy and Belgium import foodstuffs and export mineral and manufactured products. Java imports a very small amount of rice and salt fish and exports many more agricultural products. It not only supplies its own people with food, but finds it possible to buy mineral and manufactured products. It might be supposed that this immense population would be divided in a certain proportion on the island, and either that its increase would be small, as in France and Belgium, or else there would be a large emigration, as from Great Britain or Germany.

Neither case is true. Emigration is scarcely known. The population increases at the rate of 1 per cent a year, and its distribution varies so greatly that in the eastern portion there are fewer people than in the swampy plains of Minsk, in Russia, and in the central part there are almost twice as many people as in Belgium and Saxony, and yet 80 per cent of the population in this part of the island live by agriculture. Rice is the staple, and the statistics give 200 kilograms to each inhabitant. Only about 15 per cent of the surface of the island is devoted to the culture of rice. This is still in a very primitive state, but the government has taken it up, and the production will be greatly increased. Java is a mountainous country, but these mountains are not high, and the rainfall is great, and rice can be cultivated on 30 per cent of the surface for the first crop and 10 per cent for the second. We have therefore a possible extension of the cultivation of rice to 5,500,000 hectares. An average crop to this amount of acreage would support 6,000,000 people.

The surface of Java could be divided in this manner: Thirty per cent of the water surface would produce rice, vegetables, handicraft and agricultural exports. Fifteen per cent, tea, would produce breakfast and agricultural exports; eight per cent, tea, coffee, and the plantations; two per cent, tobacco, sugar cane. These would [illegible]

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Respectfully to the Editor.

A [illegible] "[illegible] and yet we are old. Man spoke but yesterday to-day."—Tenn.

Water After Food Usage.

It is [illegible] the stomach [illegible] food [illegible] of cooking food the water for that purpose. The fact is that boiling water is not good for the stomach. Water should be used very cold, very pure, or not at all. Water should be used very cold, very pure, or not at all. Water should be used very cold, very pure, or not at all