

Peculiar Results of Earthquakes

The recent seismic disturbances in the South of Italy and in South America, following so closely the terrible catastrophes in Jamaica, Valparaiso, and San Francisco, forcibly draw attention to the fact that, despite the great strides science has made of late, little or nothing has been discovered respecting the mighty forces imprisoned within the earth, and to the outbreak of which these fearful disasters are due. Scientists certainly cannot complain of lack of opportunity, since records have been preserved of over 7,000 earthquakes severe enough to merit remembrance, and by which more than 14,000,000 people are estimated to have perished.

Some idea of the stupendous power of these subterranean forces is shown by the changes effected by them in geography. Mountains have been obliterated or new ones formed, islands have been made or destroyed, and whole stretches of coast-line wiped out. For instance, in September, 1759, on the lofty tableland about 150 miles south-west of the city of Mexico, a piece of land four square miles in area was suddenly raised 550ft, and numerous cones appeared, one of them—the volcano of Jorullo—being nearly 1,700ft high. Java, in 1772, suffered in the opposite way, for a tract of country fifteen miles long by six broad was swallowed up entirely, a mountain of 9,000ft being reduced to 5,000ft only in the process.

In 1822 a great earthquake in Chili produced a permanent elevation of from 2ft to 7ft over nearly 100,000 square miles of the country between the Andes and the coast, and geologists have discovered traces of sea-beaches at a distance inland which prove that such upliftings must have occurred previously several times.

In the disaster at Lisbon in 1755, when nearly the whole city was wrecked in six minutes, and over 50,000 people perished, the largest mountains in Portugal were shaken to their very foundations, great masses being hurled into the adjacent valleys. A new quay, built of marble, on which a huge crowd assembled for safety from the falling buildings, suddenly sank, and it is recorded that not one of the dead bodies came to the surface. Moreover, of the ships engulfed no wreckage floated, and the spot, though previously comparatively shallow, was afterwards stated to be unfathomable. An hour after the town had been shattered the sea suddenly retired so far as to leave the bar at the entrance of the Tagus dry, and then rolled in with a series of gigantic waves from 40ft to 60ft higher than the highest tide, completely swamping the city. The effect of this earthquake was felt over an area of upwards of 7,000,000 square miles, and the velocity with which the shock travelled was computed at about twenty miles per minute.

A district which has experienced the most extraordinary changes from earthquake is the valley of the Mississippi, which in 1811-12 was convulsed to such a degree that new islands, and lakes twenty miles in extent, were formed in the incredible space of an hour, while other lakes were drained quite dry. The cemetery at New Madrid was precipitated into the river, and the ground on which the town is built, and the bank for fifteen miles above, sank 8ft. For years afterwards the forest presented 'a singular scene of confusion, the trees standing inclined in every direction, and many having their trunks and branches broken.'

About the same time Caracas experienced violent shocks. The surface undulated like a boiling liquid, and terrific subterranean sounds were heard. The whole city, with its magnificent churches, was ruined almost in a moment, and nearly 12,000 inhabitants were slain. Caracas has been called the city of earthquakes, and it is estimated that the damage caused by them is equal to an annual charge of 16s per head on the population. In an earlier earthquake at the same place, in 1790, a large part of the forest of Aripoa sank, forming a lake 800yds in diameter and 80ft deep.

An instance of the opening and closing of fissures is afforded by the Calabrian earthquake of 1783, which lasted for nearly four years. It is stated that men and cattle were engulfed by cracks in the surface, and in some cases thrown out again alive by the next shock, with great jets of mud and water. History repeats itself curiously, for one chronicler of these earthquakes relates that numbers of miscreants were seen robbing the dead and dying, even stripping them of their clothes; and more than a century later the same thing takes place under almost identical circumstances at San Francisco.

Another remarkable incident is recorded. Near Seminara an extensive olive ground and orchard were hurled by one of the shocks a distance of 200ft into a valley 60ft in depth. A small inhabited house standing on the land went with it without injury to the building or occupants. Moreover, the olive trees continued to grow, and bore a good crop the following year.

Hindustan has had many important geological changes effected by earthquakes. In 1762 Chittagong was violently shaken, the earth opening in many places and throwing up water and mud of sulphureous smell. Then sixty square miles of coast suddenly and permanently subsided, one of the Mug Mountains entirely disappeared, and another sank so low that only the summit remained. At the same time a corresponding rise of ground took place at Ramree, an island further along the coast. Again, at Cutch, in 1819, the fort and village of Sindree were submerged, and about five miles distant a long, elevated mound was raised, measuring some fifty miles, by sixteen in places, out of what had been a perfectly level plain.

Ravages of Consumption

Last year (says the London 'Morning Leader') 12,000 died of consumption in Ireland. For several years past the plague has been killing about a million people every year in India. The two figures may seem at first glance to be wholly unrelated. As a matter of fact, the rate of mortality is almost exactly the same in the two countries. The only difference is that in India the plague is an epidemic—terrible, but transitory—while in Ireland the loss from tuberculosis is a permanent condition which only changes by growing steadily worse. There is nothing mysterious about consumption. It is not one of those unforeseen visitations of contagious disease which from time to time have swept across Europe and vanished again. It is simply the inevitable outcome of certain well-known physical conditions of life. Bad and insanitary housing, insufficient and improper nourishment, racial deterioration caused by the steady draining away of the better blood by emigration—these are the prime reasons why 12,000 Irish people died from preventable disease last year. The business of an efficient Government is to change the conditions which have produced these results. So long as Great Britain insists on retaining the government in her own hands against the will of the Irish people, the responsibility for the death of those who need not have died is hers alone.

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In less than 48 hours your breath would become bad—your skin sallow—and you would be very nervous—poison in the stomach and liver.

In four days you would look bad and feel bad all over. Skin eruptions would begin—blood overflowing with poisons.

A week would find you very ill, and your friends would send wreaths to the house a few days later.

Tamer Juice positively cures constipation by first cleaning, then toning, then regulating the entire system,—stomach, kidneys, liver, bowels.

But we are prejudiced. We know exactly what Tamer Juice is, and what Tamer Juice will do. Let us see what your neighbor says:—"I sent for a half-crown bottle of Tamer Juice because I read in the newspaper how it had cured a friend of mine. My stomach was out of sorts, my liver torpid, and I had for a long time suffered from severe constipation. This first bottle much relieved me, and I continued its use. I took from 25 to 30 drops three times each day after meals. I tried to cure my constipation with pills, cascara, and other ordinary medicines, and I also had given much attention to the brown bread theory, but the results were not satisfactory. Four bottles of Tamer Juice have quite cured me, as it is nine weeks since I required to take any, and I feel in the best of good health.—Mrs T. H. Adams, Linwood." Dr Ensor's Tamer Juice is a cleansing, soothing, building, and strengthening remedy. It exerts a stimulating influence over the muscles, and organs of the alimentary tube. Constipation means that undigested food is rotting and fermenting. From this foetid mass arises foul odors that find their way into the blood, causing bad health. Remove this and you will be well. Take Tamer Juice and it will make you well. Sold by all good chemists and stores at 2s 6d per bottle. The Tussicure Manufacturing Co., Dunedin, sole proprietors.