stagnation. The same is often used for drinking and culinary purposes by the natives.

The Europeans occasionally have it, who use the rain water kept in tanks. It is said never to have been detected in *tank water*. But, while at the mission house, I discovered, in the act of drinking, *two* in one tumbler, which, upon examination by the microscope, proved to be the true filaria, or this 'Guinea worm.' They were about two lines in length, and upon the head of one, the *black speck*, seen through the vesicle as they first appear upon the surface, was distinctly visible.

Great care is required in the process of extraction. If broken it will be followed by protracted suppuration and extensive ulcers, leading often to loss of the limb. They sometimes recede from the surface once having made their appearance, and attack a distant part, or never re-appear during life.

The thought of being thus a prey to worms during life, I must acknowledge, is truly revolting; but upon reflection, it may be asked, why should it be more so than disease in any other form? The unpleasantness of the idea lies, perhaps, like that of many others in the associations connected with it—*death* and the *grave*. There is, seemingly, an incongruity presented to the mind.

The other disease is the '*elephant's leg*,' erroneously called elephantiasis; the latter, properly speaking, being a totally different affection. The leg is hard and enormously swollen, resembling in its thickened and wrinkled skin that of the elephant, from which fact it takes its name. As it occurs here it is probable the result of neglected or badly treated intermittent fever. At the recurrence of almost every febrile paroxysm, the effusion increases. The disease soon becomes chronic; the great size and heavy wrinkles of the limb become permanent—and the parts at first acutely sensible to the pain from diseased action, ultimately lose their susceptibility almost entirely, when the patient is obliged to drag about with him this '*load of leg*,' from which he can find no relief but in the grave.

The town of Cape Coast is laid out to some extent in streets, some of which are ornamented with shade trees, mostly the *Hibiscus popalneus*, which is evidently an exotic, probably from the East Indies, of which it is a native. Other species abound in Africa, though very few of them are described. There are ten or twelve handsome European dwellings erected, at different times, by the white residents, of stone and mud, and stuccoed.

The predominant rocks are a handsome granite, and micaceous slate; upon an extensive bed of the latter, the castle and fort are built. It is found almost, if not quite, throughout the western coast, and extends indefinitely into the interior. Considerable quantities of a dull white quartz appear also. Some of the natives houses are likewise built of these stones. Their town is said to number about 10,000 souls.

They have a good road extending into the interior about five miles, and leading to a handsome plantation improved by James Swanzy, Esq. Much credit is due to Mr. S. and the superintendent, Mr. Wilson, for its present appearance. They are attempting on a large scale the cultivation of the coffee tree, of which they have many thousand plants. The seed was introduced from the island of St. Thomas, in the Bight of Biaffra, whence nearly all the 'African coffee' is derived. It possesses a superior flavor.

Fruits and Flowers.—In the garden my eye was cheered with the sight of the diferent culinary vegetables of Europe, growing with vigour. The grounds were ornamented with various tropical fruit trees, as orange, lemon, (sweet and sour) tamarind, Jaca tree, a species of the *bread* fruit, (octocarpus integrifolia,) &c. They were greatly mutilated by the Ashantees in

their late war with the British, who overran the whole region. Large fields of corn were seen to have been entirely cut off by the locusts, who may be traced by like devastation far on to the westward.

In the vicinity may be seen the cotton plant, (gossypiam) growing wild. A few years since Mr. Swanzy gave it a fair trial. It yielded well, and large quantities were exported to Europe, but without profit. His present enterprising attempt with coffee is attended with brighter prospects.

The Gold Coast is the region for the magnificent cotton tree, (Bombax) of which there are different species to be seen. The B-heptaphyllum is the one from which most of the canoes here are made. It grows to an enormous size, and affords canoes of large dimensions. Were it not for this provision, landing would be always more or less difficult, and often dangerous. The use of boats is dispensed with, while the canoe is more than a substitute for the safe landing both of persons and of cargo.

This happens to be the period when, what are called the '*customs of the New Year' are celebrated;* in other words, the time of harvest. The new yam and corn are now coming in; an event which has been celebrated, from time immemorial, with debasing excesses, and the wildest extravagances. Among the Ashantees, and other large interior tribes, this season is observed with human sacrifices! but immediately on the coast within the influence of the forts, it is done with drumming, firing, dancing, screaming, drinking and fighting.

On these occasions, the wives of the caboceers, and other prominent men, appear in white dresses, (not of satin, nor muslins,) but of a substance like chalk rubbed over their bodies almost naked; while gold of the richest hue dangles in great profusion from the various points of their persons. I have seen some who could not have had on, at a moderate estimate, less than three or four hundred dollars worth. In the interior, from which the greater part of the gold is derived, it is worn in astonishing profusion.

Gold, manner of obtaining it, &c.—The whole soil throughout the Gold Coast may be said to be impregnated with this precious metal, even to the water's edge. Women and children may be seen at almost any time washing the earth for gold, but especially after a heavy rain. It is most abundant after the rainy season; during which the water rushing down in torrents from the neighbouring hills, bears onward this valuable deposit, enriching the plains, and the banks, and channels of the streams, in its course; and, thus is realized the poet's conception:

'Where Africa's sunny fountains
Roll down their *golden sands.*'

The burthen of the African's prayer is, *rain to make the corn and yams grow, and bring down the gold from the mountains.* It is related of a negro from the interior, who had recently been made a slave and brought to the coast, that he was detected ardently praying for rain; when asked the reason, he replied that it might wash down gold from the mountains, and thus enable his friends to redeem him.

It is found in the interior below the surface of the earth, and occurs in quartz and sand-stone rocks, both of which, as I have seen them, are very loose in structure, which accounts for the increased quantity after a rain; as well as for its occurrence in sandy deposits. It is obtained mostly in very small pieces, and, from the predominance of these particles, has received the general name of '*gold dust.*' It is so minutely divided, and extensively distributed, that seldom more than the value of fifty cents can be procured on the coast by washing all day; more often, the half, or fourth of that sum only. Much of Divine wisdom appears in this minute division, and wide distribution. But little else than seeking gold would be done

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