still more recently that it has been generally (now, almost unanimously) adopted. This theory is also sometimes called the wave-theory of light, and it has been primarily derived from what is known as the wave-theory of sound\*, light being considered as the effect of an undulation or agitation propagated through and by means of the particles of a subtle and extremely elastic fluid called *ether*; analagous to the effect of the wave agitations of the particles of air, or other gaseous fluid, which according to the wave-theory is recognised as causing the effect, or class of effects, denominated sound.

Lardner's Natural Philosophy.

1225. "Undulatory theory.—In the undulatory theory which was adapted by Huygens, and after him by most continental philosophers, light is regarded as in all respects analogous to sound.

The luminous body in this system does not transmit any matter through space any more than a bell transmits matter when it sounds. The luminous body is regarded as a centre of vibration; but in order to explain the transmission of this vibration through space, the existence of a subtle fluid is assumed, which plays, with regard to light, nearly the same part as the atmosphere plays with regard to sound. The sun, in this theory, then, is a centre of vibration, and the space which surrounds him being filled with an atmosphere of this subtle fluid, transmits this vibration exactly as the atmosphere transmits the vibration of a sounding body."

1926. "*The luminous ether.*—This hypothetical fluid has received the name of *ether*. It is supposed not only to fill all the vacant spaces of the universe which are unoccupied by bodies, but also to fill the interstices which exist between the component parts of bodies. Thus it is not only mingled with the atmosphere which surrounds the earth, but also with the component parts"

\* The theory now recognised as the basis of that division of Science named Acoustics.

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