

clare, for the satisfaction of the public, that he was neither an "Atheist nor a materialist, nor a self-imagined creator, but a humble and lowly reverencer of that Great Being of whose laws his accusers seemed to have lost sight." After all there was no real foundation for this abuse. That the ova of the insects were derived from the atmosphere, or conveyed into the apparatus by some natural means, (whatever fostering influences the electric fluid might be supposed to exert) was a point which Mr. Cross did not positively dispute. He did not know how to reconcile that view with the precautions he had used, but the idea of an electrical creation was one which such a man could never have entertained. It is enough, however, to say that the more recent experiments of Professor Schulze and other scientists have shown that when more stringent measures are taken to prevent the introduction of animal germs, the *Acari* of Cross are not produced.

NEGATIVE ELECTRICITY FAVOURABLE TO THE GROWTH OF FUNGI.

He invariably found that negative electricity was injurious to all vegetation except the development of fungi. When the electrical equilibrium is disturbed, and there is an absence of positive electricity, a wonderful development and growth of fungi takes place. Positive electricity, on the other hand, he found most favourable to all vegetation, except all fungoid appearances, which it checked. In the course of his experiments he constantly found fungi growing in copper and acid solutions. Mr. Cross considered that the roots and leaves of plants were in opposite states of electricity; some of his experiments in this direction are very interesting. He cut two branches from a rose tree. They were as nearly alike as possible, with the same number of buds, and both equally blown. An arrangement was made by which a negative current of electricity was passed through one, a positive current through the other. In a few hours the negative rose drooped and died, but the positive continued its freshness for nearly a fortnight; the rose itself became full blown and the buds expanded, and survived an unusual length of time. Again, he was able to keep milk

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