ter it was only necessary to permit a platinum-wire heated to whiteness to act upon it for a sufficient time. Shades containing pear juice, damson juice, hay and turnip juice, and water of yeast, were freed from their floating matter in this way. The infusions were subsequently boiled, and permitted to remain in contact with the calcined air. They are quite clear to the present hour; while the same infusions exposed to common air became mouldy and rotten long ago.

Professor Tyndall has also repeated Dr. Bastian's own experiments with solutions in hermetically-sealed tubes. The latter asserts that by boiling infusions of some animal matter in a flask, whose neck is sealed during the ebullition, and setting aside in a warm place, the previously heated fluid within the hermetically-sealed flasks will, after a variable time, swarm more or less plentifully with bacteria and allied organisms. Professor Tyndall had prepared 139 flasks, containing infusions of every conceivable kind of animal matter, and not one of this cloud of witnesses offered the least countenance to the assertion that the liquid within flasks boiled and hermetically-sealed swarm subsequently more or less plentifully with bacteria and allied organisms.

Professor Tyndall goes on to show that in his opinion the experiments made by Dr. Bastian and others who have supported his views must be defective in some particulars, and he explains how easily such errors may creep into the most apparently exact observations. He also proceeds to discuss the relation of this investigation to the very important subject of the origin of contagious disease.

Since the delivery of this lecture at the Royal Institution there have appeared in the pages of the *British Medical Journal* several letters from Dr. Bastian, Dr. Lionel Beale, and others on the one side, and from Professor Tyndall and M. Pasteur on the other. To the insinuation of error in his experiments Dr. Bastian replies with considerable warmth, and intimates that Professor Tyndall's failure to obtain certain results should not be accepted as proof of the inaccuracy of experiments made by himself and by many most eminent men of science, but is rather to be sought for in the insufficient care with which his (Professor Tyndall's) experiments were conducted. Especially he points out that Professor Tyndall, in reproducing his own experiments, had disregarded certain conditions of temperature which he had laid down. Professor Tyndall clears himself of the charge of inattention by showing how minutely he had attended to every particular in the investigation; and referring to Dr. Bastian's insinuations of the lack of knowledge of the subject which he (Professor Tyndall) had displayed, "With a discipline of twenty-six years in experimental inquiries of no easy kind, I thought it not beyond me to follow the directions thus given (by Dr. Bastian) to the members of the Pathological Society, young and old."