inflammation, and there set up a suppurating process. For instance, if the ear of an animal is injected with pus forming microbes, a wound in the extremities of the body may become infected through the circulation.

It is quite evident that microbes may easily become the cause of many of our diseases. For instance, a wandering corpuscle from some suppurating tissue, getting entangled in some debilitated part of the system, begins its work of generation, and thus boils, carbuncles, swellings, and many other serious troubles result. These cells or corpuscles are not the cause, it must be remembered, until they have become demoralized by microbes or ptomaines.

It is still a matter of doubt as to what and how these ptomaines or waste products are produced. In many cases they are the excreta of microbes themselves, in other cases they are the result of the splitting up of more complex substance, or coalescing of simpler bodies by the disturbance of molecular state of the compounds caused by the growth of the micro-organism. Waste products of microbes are analogous to the waste products of the other forms of life. In a large proportion of cases they are active poisons. They are *always* poisonous to the form of life that produced them, that is, providing they exceed certain proportions. St. unge as it may appear from the above, it will be seen that microbes actually manufacture their own germicides, as certain substances which they elaborate are the excreta of germs which are poisonous to them, just as the excreta of any animal is poison to it.

Prof. Hamilton asks: What is the immediate cause of putrefaction, and of septicemia, or blood poisoning, if bacteria are not? and states his belief that the cause is the resultant products of bacteria, known as ptomaines, which have been found to be crystalline alkaloids.

Dr. Black mentions that he has often passed a platinum suture wire, after making it red-hot, to disinfect it, into a foul root canal, and then into stiff cultivating media, four or five inches, and has seen the development of microbes along the track of the wire from one end to the other. Now, he asks, if these organisms can be carried into stiff gelatine in this way with a perfectly smooth platinum wire, what may we expect from a barbed broach thrust through a foul root canal into the healthy tissue beyond?

Prof. Miller states, in looking over the literature of the subject, he