

milk for me, but found no trace of poison, either vegetable or mineral. We also examined it microscopically, and found large numbers of animalculæ. On examining good butter-milk of the same age and in the same manner, a small number of animalculæ were visible. In order to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, a bottle of each sample of milk was set aside for a week. During this period, the latter divided, as is usually the case, into curds and whey, but the former, though left undisturbed, retained its consistency, and to the last looked as fresh as when churned. On subjecting it (the injurious milk) to the microscope again, it was found literally swarming with animalculæ, while the other sample scarcely exhibited any.

There are several conclusions, whether right or not, that I draw from the foregoing. First.—That in addition to the chemical tests used—the long interval which elapsed, between the imbibition of the milk, and the commencement of the symptoms, would preclude the possibility of ordinary irritant poisoning.—Second.—The presence of animalculæ, would preclude the same; as the existence of poisonous matters in the milk, would in all probability prove fatal to insect life.

Third.—That the animalculæ were the real evil, and that I am of the impression, that the germs or cule, which produced them, were in the water drank by the cow which produced the milk.

I am aware—that many may say it is impossible, for living germs, to be absorbed from the chyme by the lacteals, carried by the blood to the milk follicles, and again absorbed into the mamme. I acknowledge that it is impossible for a living animalcule to go through such an eventful career. The animalculæ examined, were as near as I could judge, from 1-5,000th to 1-7,000th of an inch in diameter. Remembering the immeasurable difference in the size, which always exists, between the germ or ovum, and the fully developed living being, it is quite possible for the germ of the animalcule to be so small, as to pass without obstruction through the lacteal and lactiferous absorbent systems, and that too without breaking any well established physiological law.—Physiologists tell us—"that cells cannot be absorbed without previous disintegration," but if germs be so small as these disintegrated particles, I see no reason why their absorption should not take place, and that too, without destroying their inherent character and vitality.