

which they are enabled to migrate and multiply in the various fluids of the animal body, constituting micrococci. It is an indisputable fact that there are local inflammations in every contagious fever; and in every inflammation there is an abnormal increase of bioplasm, which is accounted for both by the influx of great numbers of wandering cells, and by the retrograde metamorphosis of the tissues of the part.

Beale speaks of great numbers of microscopic atoms under the name of 'bioplasts.' He tells us 'the minute contagious bioplast is less than $\frac{1}{100000}$ of an inch in diameter, and often so very clear and structureless as to be scarcely distinguishable from the fluid in which it is suspended.'

It has been conclusively shown that acute inflammations produced by chemical or physical means give rise to products which are of a contagious nature, and may be successfully inoculated; and Dr. Burdon Sanderson tells us that he has successfully produced fever by the introduction of minutely small quantities of exudation liquids directly into the blood.

Most of the above theories have met with many weighty objections, a few of which I would like to notice, but as you are well aware, the various theories and their several objections would make a large volume; and even though I had the necessary ability to go deeply into the subject, I could not do so in a paper such as mine, which is necessarily restricted as to length.

The bioplastic theory of Beale, however, seems to me to be the one best worthy of support, and after due consideration is the one which, in my humble opinion, is the correct one. It certainly has not met with such strong opposition as the thousand-and-one other theories that have been given to the world. It is founded on actual observation and