

Those minute organisms known as animalcules have come in for their share of consideration, being firmly believed by many to be the cause of this, as of some other diseases. This is a very interesting theory, and one well worthy of consideration, and by it certain of the symptoms can be accounted for which hitherto could not be explained. Some observers consider the disease to be due to microscopic vegetable organisms, or cryptogama. This is the opinion entertained by Mr. Moorhouse, of New York, who, on examination of the discharge from the nostrils, found three distinct species of vegetable organisms, all of them in a vigorous state of development. According to the *Veterinarian*, the observations of Mr. Moorhouse do not accord with those of Prof. James Law, who subjected the particles floating in the air from stables and fields to microscopic examination both before and during the prevalence of the epizootic of 1872, without discovering any important difference in the floating particles from first to last.

This brings us to the much-mooted question of contagion and infection. Most writers use these terms indiscriminately, making no distinction whatever between them; still, I consider them as two different words, each with a meaning different to that of the other. For instance, a contagious disease may be defined as follows: A morbid condition of the animal economy induced by the operation of a specific poison, termed a virus or contagium, which, on being conveyed by actual contact into the system of a healthy animal, induces a condition identical with that of the body from which it originated.

An infectious disease is one which has the power of spreading itself by diffusion of the specific material through the air. I am well aware that many eminent authorities do not believe influenza to be either contagious or infectious, and I cannot help experiencing a feeling of great diffidence