

to be the specific cause of typhoid, it is an imperative necessity to connect it with aerial typhoid poison. There are not, probably, any two specific causes for any one specific disease, and if there were there is no room for the assumption in the case of typhoid, because it is well established that patients who catch the disease by way of the air may communicate it through the medium of water. The converse, too, of this phenomenon has frequently been observed. It follows that the typhoid poison, whatever it is, is, under certain conditions, convertible or reconvertible from an air-poison to a water-poison. As a sequence, Dr. Klein is called upon to show that the aquatic plants he has described may under some circumstances enter the air in such numbers as to create an efficient air-poison. If this were impossible it would weaken the claim of the fungus to the title of the typhoid fungus most considerably. But only do I suspect it to be possible, but even to be feasible.

Most phytologists would, I think, infer from the description and from the drawings of the vegetation figured by Dr. Klein, that it is the water phase of the plant, and that by proper cultivation on the surface of a fit substrate, it would revert to its original or mildew form. It is highly probable that the gonidia and their descendants are the modified representatives of the sporules of some mould. Nothing is clearer than that most of these low terrestrial organisms will not only sustain themselves when they are accidentally immersed in fluids containing nitrogenous matters, but will multiply rapidly under the abnormal conditions, owing to the facility with which their organs of fructification will accommodate themselves to the new medium. It is, then, a warrantable scientific inference that the vegetation in the typhoid tissues is in a casual and degenerate stage of its existence, and that its true, or highest, or original form is that of a mildew growing on a free substrate. If this inference be verified experimentally, the key to the whole position will be obtained. With it the enquirer may see at once how the transition from an air-poison to a water-poison, or the converse, is effected; and with it Dr. Klein would have advanced the fungus he had made out a long way towards taking rank as the typhoid plant. Although other sets of observations must be undertaken to determine the issue raised, as well as to clear up other points too numerous to refer to, yet I confidently anticipate the verdict of the etiological world, and accept Dr. Klein's fungus as the specific cause of typhoid. I may say I am led to this conviction principally because the outcome of Dr. Klein's inquiry