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gest, that all life everywhere, both vegetable and animal, *was* and *is* in its lowest form and earliest manifestation, *one and indivisible*, and that under certain obscure and inexplicable conditions not yet definable ; though for a long time more than suspected ; and quite conceivable by me, the germs in which non-contagious, incommunicable, endemic malarial diseases appear to originate ; may, under conditions of intense spiritual excitement and exacerbation, acquire from our higher life a higher development, more closely allied to the lowest forms of animal life, so almost impossible to distinguish from them in their earliest manifestations ; and under such conditions, convert a *hitherto endemic non-contagious disease*, such as Asiatic Cholera long originally *was*, into a contagious epidemic ; which, abandoning its local endemic birth place in the reeking, sweltering, pestilential river valleys of Hindostan, to which it was long confined ; acquires under such conditions a higher development, and spreads itself by direct contagion from man to man, over every region of the habitable globe.

I entertain a very strong suspicion, almost amounting to absolute belief, that all contagious diseases now known ; more especially the great epidemics of the middle and earlier ages, some of which have apparently died out and disappeared ; originated in *progressive germs*, conceived in, and developed from, some foul endemic source, under such abnormally excited or depressed spiritual conditions of humanity, as then too frequently prevailed ; but which under the greater liberty and enlightenment of mankind, won by advancing science and all-conquering light, we hope may never re appear.

The discovery and demonstration of Laveran's Microbe as the true source of all malarious fevers, is a revelation, but one for which we have long been confidently looking, and of whose ultimate manifestation we have long felt morally certain ; but so far as any true knowledge of this parasite is concerned, we are as yet only crossing the threshold of the door, the fuller opening of which may yet unveil the mystery. We have much yet to learn respecting the life history of this Amœboid parasite ; and indeed of the true origin of all germ life. Is it of animal or vegetable origin ? or do these nominal distinctions ultimately resolve themselves into successive links of the same life-chain having one common paternity ? Why does this microbe, (if always one and the same) behave so differently under changed external conditions, and produce such variously modified results upon different soils and under different temperatures ? If not always the same, how do the physical characteristics of a soil so greatly modify its effects ? We know that the gravity of the fever, due to the presence of this microbe, *is qualified greatly by the solar heat under which it is incubated*, and the soil in which it is bred or developed ; but why the presence of certain chemical or mineral ingredients in its birth place, and the degree of heat under which it is generated should make all the difference between an ordinary intermittent and a malignant remittent ; (provided the parasite is always one and the same), is not yet explained. The soil of the Dismal Swamp