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Professor Williams does not state positively what his opinion is on the subject of contagion, and seems to be in considerable doubt on this point ; but as it is not included in the list of contagious diseases in his work on veterinary medicine, I think he must consider it to be a non-contagious disease.

Cullen, one of the highest authorities on human medicine, declares that influenza, as affecting man, is undoubtedly a contagious disease.

Professor Smith, Principal of the Ontario Veterinary College, says : 'I am perfectly confident that influenza is (under certain circumstances) a contagious disease, and may be due to germs so small as to be imperceptible to us.'

Professor James Law, who has devoted a great deal of time to the study of influenza, is a firm believer in the theory of contagion.

Now, having, I think, succeeded in satisfactorily proving influenza to be a contagious disease, I will briefly notice a few of the more important views held in relation to the agent or specific material by means of which the disease is propagated.

There are three principal theories in regard to the nature of the contagium or virus itself. It is considered by some to be a ferment void of definite structure, and which, when introduced into the healthy body, is capable of producing changes in the blood and other fluids.

Others believe it to be a parasitic organism, originating outside of the body, but which, on gaining access to the animal economy, is capable of development and increase within it, and probably consists of bacteria.

The third theory is that the virus consists essentially of bioplasmic granules, possessing amœboid movement ; or, perhaps, a peculiar species of vital power, by means of