

first part of the experiment the invisible spores and ovules in the air sucked through the tubes were exposed to the action of the acid and alkali, and killed. In the latter part, the air freighted with the invisible germs came in direct contact with the infusion, and those germs finding there a suitable nidus for development, gave origin to the living beings witnessed. If then it is established that each one of us breathes an air laden with the germs of organisms that only want a nidus for development; that with the food we eat, and especially the water we drink, additional germs are introduced into our system by another channel; if as we know positively by abundant observation, we ourselves as well as the lower animals and plants are the actual habitat of parasites; let us by all the means at our command, ascertain the conditions of existence and ways of life of those beings, that as far as possible the material well-being of our race, and the interests of natural science may be promoted. The discussion that is still open as to the origin of numerous cutaneous diseases demonstrates the necessity of eliminating all causes of error from investigations of such obscurity. Gruby, Gulliver, and other careful observers positively maintain the parasitic origin of *porrigo favosa*. Wilson in an article, every page of which is the expression of careful researches, denies the presence of any cryptogam in the crust, and shows that the first named observers were misled by deceptive appearances. Both parties thus investigate the same result but trace it to different causes.

The vastness of the obscurity which rests upon the subject of parasites naturally leads to much speculation. Facts here as elsewhere are made the basis of undue generalization.

The domain of reason which is the result of experience lies beside that of imagination, and many avenues lead from one into the other. The ascertained fecundity of parasites, the new species continually discovered in the most unexpected places with the various morbid symptoms which they are *known* to cause, easily lead to the supposition of the parasitic origin of diseases which really arise from other causes. Thus with the growth of natural science do its requirements for additional investigation augment. Questions are perpetually reopened that were once supposed to be definitely settled, and new ones are raised. From each rugged summit upon the hill of science that its devotee attains, he sees others still more difficult of access rising above him. But still he struggles on although often with naught but