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very vague and unsatisfactory one, with absolutely no argu-
ment to support it, and, therefore, is unworthy of notice
and needs no refutation.

It has also been supposed to arise from an excess of ozone
in the air ; and while ozone will cause considerable irrita-
tion to the Schneiderian and other mucous membranes
which are more directly exposed to the action of the air,
still, common-sense teaches us that it could not set up the
great constitutional disturbance by which influenza is
characterized.

Some say that it is nothing more than a common cold,
beginning as colds ordinarily do, and proceeding to that
high degree of catarrhal inflammation known as influenza.
That this is not true is shown by the fact that simple catarrh
can be cut short almost at will, while influenza persists in
running a definite course, in spite of every mode of treat-
ment that can be brought to bear, and any attempt to cut
it short is fraught with great danger to the life of the
patient. Still others, wishing to be more conservative,
have included all of the above theories, and taken the
broader stand that the disorder is primarily caused by
atmospheric influences. And remarkable atmospheric
changes and variations of temperature have been recorded
by various writers, during epidemics of influenza, who
have thus endeavoured to account for the presence of the
disease. But while these conditions may, and very likely
do, bring about a predisposition to the malady, the stand
taken that they are the actual causes of influenza is not, to
my mind, a tenable one ; for many outbreaks have occurred
without anything remarkable being observed, so far as
temperature and atmospheric changes were concerned.
Again, most extraordinary changes of weather and tem-
perature have frequently been observed without a solitary
case of influenza occurring as a consequence.