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There are certain forms of disease which are well known to be the result of a specific poison entering the blood. Of these, we may mention the various forms of fever; in fact, that class of disease known as of zymotic origin. Among this class is to be mentioned cholera, the question of the contagious and non-contagious nature of which is attracting considerable attention at the present day throughout the scientific world.

This question has divided the profession into two schools—those who assert that disease of the zymotic class is produced by special poisons independent of condition, and capable of being generated and reproduced from one individual to another. Another class of sanitary reformers there are who regard zymotic disease as being caused alone by neglect of certain sanitary laws, and from emanations from decomposing animal or vegetable refuse. Much injury is done by extreme views of either party, while the advocates of measures calculated to embarrass trade such as rigid quarantine regulations on the one hand, and those who regard disease as occasioned alone by neglect of common cleanliness on the other, are each clamouring for the adoption of their specific views. It would be well to consider the advisability of adopting, as a whole, common sense views of the obligations imposed on each individual for his own safety, and that of the whole community. That cholera is contagious in the same nature as is small-pox, typhus fever, or other zymotic diseases of this class, we do not believe; it is a question, however, which is far from being settled definitely. There is much to be said in favour of contagion, and much against it. There are certain conditions which, of necessity, must exist prior to the development of any contagious disease: firstly, we must have the poison capable of developing the disease; secondly, a medium of communicating the poison; and, thirdly, an individual predisposed to receive it. That cholera is produced by a specific poison seems to be the generally received opinion; that the