

germ-cell out of which it was developed ; and whether *this* was primarily of animal or vegetable origin, still remains a profound mystery. My own conviction is and has long been, that all life, animal, vegetable, and perhaps even mineral, is originally one and indivisible. and that each of these kingdoms, from the lowest to the highest, in turn provides, or constitutes, the matrix in which all germ-life is generated, and from which, by methods at present incomprehensible, it is in turn *progressively* developed : in other words, that all life has a common primordial source, and is originally one and indivisible ; like the mythical life-tree Igdrasil of our Norse ancestors, having its sources deep down in the realms of Hela, its top-most boughs touching Heaven ; but ever green and growing, being watered by the three Nornas, times or eras, the Past, the Present, and the Future, from the sacred life sustaining well of knowledge, by which alone all true vitality grows and is developed.

Twenty-five years ago or more, when the "Fermentation theory" of contagious diseases, from which we derive our term "Zymotic," so ingeniously taught and illustrated by the late Sir Thomas Watson in his unique and classical "Practice of Medicine," was still universally accepted, I suggested a proposition, for which I received unmeasured ridicule at the hands of my medical friends and contemporaries, (of which the few survivors I still occasionally meet, remind me, with tardy appreciation and recognition) namely that all idiopathic fevers would ultimately be traced to a germ origin ; those of a contagious nature being probably due to germs of animal life, reproducible in the system and therefore transferable or contagious ; and those of a non-contagious nature, such as malarial fevers, to germs of vegetable life ; not reproducible in the system and therefore non-contagious. I possessed neither the means nor the opportunity in those days ; being engaged in a large general practice ; for verifying this suggestion, which longer experience tended to strengthen and confirm ; the much later discovery and announcement of the "germ" theory of disease, since so increasingly demonstrated by microscopical investigation, was therefore no surprise to me, as it had long been a foregone conclusion ; nor was I aware, until quite recently, that, in the century preceding the Christian Era, upwards of 2000 years ago, Lucretius had suggested that "Malarial Fever was due to the presence of living organisms in the blood."

I have long ceased to say much about such dreams, having no opportunities for verifying them, and knowing the penalty I must suffer from dreamless sleepers for thus disturbing their repose ; but I will mention one which has frequently, during the last few years, presented itself to my mind, and which, like that of the germ origin of fevers, may some day be demonstrated, namely ; that a more intimate acquaintance with the sources of diseases and their irregular manifestations under rare, ill defined, but still unquestionable conditions ; has led me in later years to believe and sug-