

the infection when it is upon the turn, the horses that escaped the distemper being chiefly those that were kept in constant strong exercise, or full-aged old horses, many of which were in nowise affected, although very much exposed to it.'

As will be seen by the above, the theory of contagion is not one sprung into existence within the last few years, but, on the contrary, influenza was a century and a half ago asserted to be contagious by Wm. Gibson, at that time the best authority and most eminent veterinary surgeon in England, and who, a hundred years later, is frequently quoted by Percivall, and referred to by that great writer in terms of warmest praise. He further says: 'I have known single horses seized with the same symptoms at other times when the distemper was neither infectious nor epidemical, and these were always relieved with bleeding and evacuants, especially with diuretics and diluters, giving them plenty of water-gruel or white-water.' Gibson's treatment, with the exception of bleeding, was very similar to the course of treatment pursued at the present time.

White published a volume about the year 1830, in which he says, speaking of influenza: 'This disorder arises from different causes, and is brought on in some cases by the sudden application of cold and moisture when the body has been heated and somewhat exhausted by excessive exercise; it arises also from a peculiar state of the atmosphere, and then of course it is epidemic: it is of little importance in this case to know whether it be infectious or not; for if it depends on a certain state of the atmosphere, that state must prevail to a considerable extent.'

Percivall very briefly alludes to the theory of contagion, saying that he merely mentions it to state his disbelief.

Woodroffe Hill, in his 'Bovine Medicine and Surgery,' states the disease to be highly contagious in cattle.