highly probable, though there are not wanting many who assert strongly the opinion,—that all of them may, and frequently do arise spontaneously under particular circumstances, and who deny altogether the infectious nature of many of them. These opinions will be again reverted to, for the present, let it suffice,—that many diseases are undoubtedly produced by the introduction to the system of morbific matter, from the person of another labouring under the same disease.

But this morbific matter is not sufficient alone to produce the disease; it can only co-operate with certain other matters within the system; and if these latter be not present, it can no more produce the disease than a candle can continue to burn, or an animal to live in an atmosphere which contains no oxygen.

These matters contained in the blood of persons susceptible to the action of the morbid poisons, constitute what Simon calls the "specific internal cause," in contradistinction to the matter introduced from without, which he calls the "specific external cause." The best example of the mutual action of these two causes, is the inoculation with small pox matter, of two persons, one of whom has previously had the disease, while the other has not. The former will remain unaffected by any amount of the matter, because the specific internal cause has already been exhausted, while in the latter, a minimum quantity will suffice to produce the disease, the internal cause being ready to respond to the external.

Again, there must be supposed to exist within the body a different specific internal cause, corresponding with each of the specific external. For example, after the susceptibility to small pox has been exhausted, the poison of measles or of scarlet fever will be found to act as readily as if small pox had not occurred, thus proving that each of them has its own particular cause, otherwise the latter two would have remained inert.

But, it may be asked—What evidence is there of the existence of this specific internal cause, and of what may it be supposed to consist? With regard to the first question; we have sufficient proof of the existence of a specific internal cause, in the circumstance, that after the occurrence of some of these diseases, and the consequent separation from the blood, of the matter peculiar to the disease, the susceptibility to a recurrence is exhausted, leading us to infer, that the particular ingredient of the blood which has thus been separated, was absolutely necessary for the production of the disease. But no analysis, however minute, has yet been able to detect the slightest difference in the composition of the blood, before and after the disease.

With regard to the other question—of what the specific internal cause