

ity of success is, under the circumstances, sufficiently dubious. Speculations based upon negative evidence, though interesting and supported by numerous analogies, are not reliable, from the impossibility of knowing all the circumstances that bear upon the case in point. It seems proved, however, that the germs of future organisms float in myriads through the air and in the water, and that they lie everywhere upon the surface of the earth.

Man is accustomed to pride himself upon his position at the head of animated nature, yet in the exercise of those powers which are his prerogative he exposes himself to vicissitudes and dangers that he often does not appreciate, and from which the inferior animals are more or less exempt. Accustomed from his birth to one climate he rushes into a very different one, and retaining his original habits under very different circumstances, he pays a double penalty for his rashness: first, of disease; secondly, of the entozoa to which that disease supplies a suitable nidus for development. In finding his pleasure wherever and whenever he lists, fortunate indeed is for him that he affords so few conditions as he does for the development of parasites. For does he scent the perfumed gales from the orange groves of the south, or snuff the cold air from off the icebergs at the north, he takes into his aerial passages the invisible germs of future organisms. Does he tickle his palate with the delicious fruits of the tropics, or make a frugal meal like the Esquimaux, of train oil and tallow, on the shores of the Arctic sea, down his throat by thousands go the dormant seeds of future evil. Insinuated into his lungs, nose, mouth, and cutaneous follicles, and scattered over his whole body, the microscopic germs await their destiny.

This much, the microscopic and other observations absolutely demonstrate. That single experiment of Schultz of Berlin, is conclusive upon this point, and at the same time confutes most of the arguments in favour of the *generatio equivoca*. He took a flask and placed in it a vegetable infusion. A cork with an apparatus of two tubes bent to a suitable form and with bulbs blown upon them, was carefully inserted into the flask, sulphuric acid was placed in the one tube, and in the other caustic potash. Air from time to time was sucked through the tubes and consequently through the flask also. After a couple of months the infusion remained free from cryptogams and infusoria. The cork was then removed and the infusion exposed to the air, in a few days the infusion swarmed with life. During the