

from dirt or decomposition, but are descendants of their forefathers, where did the first disease germ come from?

We do not know. Where did the first wheat come from? Or the first horse? We know that we can get no wheat *now*, except from wheat, nor horses except from horses. These germs are plants or animals, exactly as wheat or horses are. That they are tiny no more changes this law of descent than does the enormous size of a whale or of a redwood tree. "All life from life" holds true in nature through the whole scale, from germ to human beings. Besides, under the microscope, we see the germs "descending" from their forefathers.

2. If dirt does not breed disease, then why are dirty people more subject to disease?

Dirty people are no more subject to disease than clean. Infection, if it reaches either, may yield disease in either; if it reaches neither, neither will suffer. If an infectious disease enters a household, the dirtiest people will not spread it, despite their dirty habits, *if they avoid the one specific "dirt"* (the discharges of the patient) which alone is harmful; the cleanest people will not fail to catch it if, in their general cleanliness, they neglect that same specific "dirt." True, dirt and carelessness and disorder offer some indication whether or not the people who show these characteristics would have the sense, or take the trouble, to avoid the one dangerous "dirt," should it appear. On the other hand, cleanliness, thrift, and system indicate characters likely to handle infectious "dirt" with the same care they show in other matters. But the dirtiest people who make the proper efforts to avoid infection can and do many times escape, remain-