

philological. I hesitate to use words which are a sign of the philological capacity of the academic world. The designation of an object which looms up in observation and recognition, should express the form as well as the qualities. We understand to-day by *bacteriae* and *bacilli* in medicine all these minute beings which stand in close connection with contagion. Only a portion of these beings have the form of a staff. The form is, therefore, not designated in a number of cases.

Of the qualification the designation expresses nothing. We know now that these minute beings are living beings, with the power of assimilation and propagation, and we might therefore, for the present, at least, designate them as cells. They are compared with the average cell form, very minute; we might, therefore, call them "dwarf cells," and as they stand in close connection with the toxination and contagion of living tissues, we can designate them as "toxin-contagion, infectious dwarf cells," and in the text the designation might be abbreviated.

These dwarfy beings have not perhaps the importance of cells, but of cists or only of protoplasmic flakes, analogous to the particles, the movements of which in the so-called karyokinese are visible in the cell of the ovum, which after all have the significance of independent living substance, as they avoid the foundations of the individual tissue-elements, with their qualification of assimilation and propagation. The necessary change of the expression: cell would become then a historical moment of progress in knowledge.

The more indeterminate expression partially could be used; but it is not fit when applied to living substances.

There is, however, another reason why we have preferably used thus far the indeterminate expression epidemic toxin or virus.

Whether pure cultures of the Koch toxin cells could generate consumption is questionable as far as the human being comes in question. Outside of the food from cattle, infection is carried from man to man, and if in all cases of infection the toxin cells very probably play a role, it is highly probable that there is toxin present in the vehicles, which are perhaps much more important than the cells themselves. For that it is affirmative that older and advanced cases are more dangerous by their isolation than cases of shorter duration and less acute, and that the proportionality between the number of cells and the aggravation of the case is disputed by many.

It further appears to me, as I have already expressed myself twenty years ago, that bacteriology does not as yet hang upon the right hook. Inducement offered: first of the inherited cases of consumption, which make their appearance at a certain period of life, in which, at least during the process, toxin cells could be shown, but their absence in the first beginning was not beyond doubt.