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Microbes, and What They Are Doing.

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There are three conditions requisite to produce septic fermentation, viz., warmth, moisture and microbes.

Pathogenic fermentation produces ptomaines. An open wound is a constant invitation to floating germs; these soon generate pus.

Now, what is pus? Ask any number of physicians or dentists, and note how the answers will vary. One says dead matter is pus. Another replies, pus is dead blood. One tells us it may be defined as the result of a pathological state, pyogenia. Another, the viscous matter of a sore, a well-known product of inflammation. Webster defines pus as the matter of an ulcer.

Dr. Thomas, in his medical dictionary, defines pus as a bland, cream-like fluid found in abscesses or on the surface of sores.

Dr. Robert Hunter, in his dictionary, states the word is from the Greek and Latin, and in the Sanscrit is called *puya*, meaning to stink. He says it consists of pus corpuscles, liquor puris, and other histological particles, and may be healthy or laudable, sanious, ichorous or watery, purulent or serous, and may become cheesy and ultimately calcify.