

coming in contact with it is usually rendered inert or incapable of evil.

The material suspended in the air, animate and inanimate, doubtless varies very much. It may be characterized by pure or impure properties. The organisms are, like visible animal life, subject to disease, to degeneration, to death. They require food for growth and development and procreation. If the food by which they live is pure, we may infer they will be pure; but if they feed upon putrefying material they will be not only destitute of their natural qualities, but will become highly deleterious—poisonous. Having undergone important changes, through eating bad food, they are polluted. And now if the air which they inhabit finds its way into the lungs, they possess a fatal power to infect the human system. They are no longer harmless as they throng the tiny air cells and lodge upon the delicate cell wall.

Again, the inanimate matter in the air may be quite inert and incapable of evil in any case; or, it may be like palpable dead flesh, which when dried is perfectly sweet; but which by the addition of moisture and moderate heat becomes a putrefying substance. Even a very small quantity of this taken into the lungs may be sufficient to effect harm; but when it is in a concentrated state it may carry death to the blood which meets it in the lungs. Thus we see that invisible lifeless organic matter floating in the air, may, by the aid of moisture and heat, which causes putrefying decomposition, become a poisonous food to low organisms, whereby they are enabled to work evil in the lungs, or this putrefying material may directly act as a poison upon the blood in the lungs. Organic matter in the air while in a desiccated state is harmless. Heat and moisture will however soon change it into a poisonous material. These conditions—this heat and this moisture—are supplied within the air tubes and cells. Hence it is that one cannot with impunity continue to breathe atoms of organic matter which may rapidly decompose. But the necessary heat and moisture may be obtained without the air entering the lungs. On a hot wet day the same changes may be taking place on a large scale in the open air, so that if breathed it vitiates the blood.