## APPENDIX.

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the two former are also considered to be infectious as well as contagious, while the latter (cow-pox) is pronounced "only contagious, not infectious," by high authority in these matters ;\* a proof of the very loose manner in which professional men have been in the habit of thinking and writing on these topics.

But are these diseases contagious? 1. Is small-pox contagious? Does its virus produce the disease by simple contact, direct or indirect? We will not demand of our friends, the contagionists, a categorical answer to this last interrogatory; but say what they say, that there are three ways or modes of communicating the disease with tolerable certainty, and also another, of very questionable character, which we will proceed to examine.

1. Small-pox may be communicated to the *fatus in utero*, and that too when the mother, having previously had the disease, remains perfectly free from every symptom of that distemper. In this case, the variolous matter is received into the maternal system, and transmitted through it to the fætus. As this excludes the possibility of contact, or of any artificial means of communication having been employed, it may be emphatically styled "the natural way" of getting the small-pox.<sup>†</sup>

2. By inhaling air impregnated or tainted with the variolous poison, which is diffused through it in a state of the minutest possible division. In this way, the matter is conveyed to the pulmonary absorbents, taken up, and carried by them into the system, which in process of time becomes contaminated and poisoned. By this method a much greater quantity of virus finds its way into the system—hence the greater severity of the disease thus induced. In this case the matter comes in contact with the surface of the body, and also with that of the muccus membrane of the bronchize. The former (i. e. contact with the surface) constitutes, as we have seen, the very essence, the sine quâ non of contagion; but we have, in addition, its contact with the pulmonary tissues which makes "assurance doubly sure;" yet if it is not absorbed no disease

\* See Elliotson's Practice, by Stewardson, p. 444, and also p. 309.

† It is impossible to furnish a stronger proof of the fact that infectious diseases (a certaia species of them at least) do afford immunity from subsequent attacks or in other words, destroy the susceptibility of the system to the impression made by that particular poison.