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ON THE CAUSATION OF TYPHOID FEVER,

By "MUCOR," of Melbourne, Victoria.*

How long will etiologists continue to resist the conclusion that the infective agent of typhoid is derived from a specific mildew occurring on faecal matter? Must this truth, which may be arrived at inferentially, lie unheeded and unproductive until it shall be demonstrated experimentally? Is it an absolute requirement that every step in the inquiry into typhoid causation should be slowly dragged through the whole field of positive proof? Is there no possibility of determining from available data the nature of the typhoid poison—at all events, with an approximation sufficiently near to serve all practical purposes in the matter of prevention?

These questions have been before me for years, but they press themselves with greater force now that the world has been supplied with further definite and important knowledge in the paper of Dr. Klein, "On Enteric or Typhoid Fever" in Mr. Simon's Report to the Privy Council (New Series, No. 6). The substance of Dr. Klein's observations has been foreshadowed by Mr. Simon. The results of his researches have been before etiologists for these twelve months. Ample time therefore has been given to scientific men to form their views as to the general nature, scope, and bearing of his paper. From the first announcement of the discovery of the fungus in the parts concerned in typhoid up to the present date, I have gone through the comments of the principal English medical journals upon it with a curious and lively interest. In all quarters I have perceived that the most implicit trust is reposed in Dr. Klein. Not the least doubt appears to exist anywhere either

*From the *Medical Times & Gazette*.