

M0007564: Four flasks containing urine for Lister display

Publication/Creation

6 September 1940

Persistent URL

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EXPERIMENTS ON THE GERM THEORY.

Quantities of the same specimen of urine were introduced into four glass flasks, so as to make each about one third full. The necks were washed and were then drawn out in a spirit lamp into tubes less than a line in diameter. Three of these fine tubes were bent at various acute angles while the fourth was left short and vertical, though equally narrow. Each flask was boiled for five minutes after which they were all left exposed to the air.

Result.

In the flask with the short upright neck fungi soon made their appearance, and the urine changed to colour. In the flasks with bent necks the urine remained unchanged for years.

Conclusions.

That the putrefactive changes taking place in urine are occasioned by particles of dust suspended in the atmosphere, but not by the atmospheric gases.

