with my nose small-pox growing up in first specimens, either in close rooms or in overcrowded wards where it could not by any possibility have been 'caught' but must have begun. Nay more, I have seen diseases begin, grow up, and pass into one another. Now dogs do not pass into cats. I have seen for instance with a little overcrowding continued fever grow up; and with a little more, typhoid fever; and with a little more typhus, and all in the same ward or hut.

It is necessary to emphasize these rather curious views of Miss Nightingale, for they inspired her sanitary work, and they explain her strong antagonism to methods other than those she supported. It took the medical profession many years to understand and fully accept the 'germ' theory, and it is not surprising that Miss Nightingale never accepted it, particularly as her medical colleague, Dr Sutherland, was also conservative towards the new ideas. When she believed in anything she always did so wholeheartedly. On 6 November 1858 she wrote to Chadwick—

Sanitary experience has so completely disproved the invisible 'seminal' contagions that I can only see a mania for being wrong in such letters as Greenhow's and Simon's. I never knew a case of infection, but there was gross mismanagement and carelessness.

It can be imagined therefore how puzzled and worried Miss Nightingale was when in 1873, in the newly built St Thomas's Hospital in which there were the latest sanitary devices, there occurred a serious outbreak of pyaemia. Her opposition to the theory of contagion and to the need for quarantine was expressed in a letter which she wrote to Dr Farr in 1861—

I only modestly and really humbly say that I never saw a fact adduced in favour of contagion that would bear scientific enquiry, and I could name to you men whom you would acknowledge as scientific who place contagion on the same footing as witchcraft and other superstitions.

Her close colleague Dr Sutherland called contagion 'a London invention' and criticized Dr Farr for accepting Dr Snow's demonstration of the fact that cholera could be conveyed by water: 'You will find him reiterating again Dr Snow's fallacy about the destruction of the propagating fluid of cholera.' Snow was of course perfectly right in his contention, but Sutherland and his famous