Friday, November 18, 1898.

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INERTIA AS A POSSIBLE MANIFESTATION 
OF THE ETHER.

In the American Journal of Science for October I described certain experiments 
on the compression of coagulated jelly, to 
which I am inclined to attach some 
importance, since they establish a case of well-defined persistent motion of material bodies 
in a highly viscous (solid) medium, as the 
result of the breakdown of stress in the medium in question, and quite without 
the agency of any force acting at a distance.' 
I ask the reader's indulgence if I recall the 
main features of these experiments here, 
for the remarks which I propose to make 
in the present communication are to be 
based directly upon them and would lose 
their point in a mere reference.

Given a thread of firmly coagulated (10%-20%) gelatine solution \( b \), Fig. 1, 
10-20 cm. long, between terminal threads 
of mercury \( a \) and \( c \) in a fine bore 
\( \frac{1}{3} \) mm.) strong capillary tube (not 
shown in figure). The upper thread is 
fixed; the lower is movable and transmits 
the pressure of a strong force pump. As 
pressure increases, it will be found 
that the originally convex meniscus in 
Fig. 1 is gradually more and more sharp-
ened conoidally upward, until the 
unstable figure 2 is reached, after which, as in 
3, a small projectile, usually round and often 
less than \( \frac{1}{10} \) mm. in diameter, is shot up-
ward 10-20 cm., against gravity and against