

The life-history of the rhabdomea strongyloides (anguillula intestinalis, anguillula stercoralis) is a peculiar one. The anguillula intestinalis lives in the intestines of man, and gives rise—probably by parthenogenesis—to ova, which develop into sexual animals. These were for a long time considered to form a separate species, being known as anguillula stercoralis; but it has been shown that if the embryos produced by them are swallowed by man, they grow up into the asexual intestinal form. Thus here we have an alternation of generations—sexual and asexual. The evidence for and against the view that Cochin China diarrhoea is caused by the presence of this parasite was entered into, and the conclusion arrived at was, that although this worm may undoubtedly give rise to enteritis, yet it cannot be considered to have any causal relation to the disease first mentioned.

The lectures were concluded by a summary of the anatomy and life-history of the trichina spiralis, and the effects produced by it upon its host.

THE CHOLERA SURVEY.

WE understand that the general medical survey of the English ports by the Medical Staff of the Local Government Board is making substantial progress. During the past month, in addition to the special general inquiry made by Mr. Jenner Fust and Dr. Barry with respect to the port sanitary administration of the river Mersey, detailed inspections have been made of the ports of Amble, the river Blyth, the river Tyne, Sunderland, Hartlepool, and the river Tees, by Mr. T. W. Thompson; of the ports of Wisbech, Wells, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, by Dr. Monckton Copeman; of those of Colchester and Maldon by Dr. Reece; of Portsmouth, Cowes, Littlehampton and Newhaven, by Dr. Theodore Thomson; and of the ports of Poole, Weymouth, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, and Plymouth, by Dr. Bulstrode.

We believe that it is contemplated to shortly revisit these ports for the purpose of conferring with and advising the several sanitary authorities as to the treatment of the defects, where such defects exist, in their sanitary armour. At the present rate of progress we may assume that all the more important ports of England and Wales will be visited in the course of the present month. When the work of port inspection is completed, we trust that the inspectors will be sent to the inland sanitary districts to see how far these are prepared to resist the importation of cholera, and to advise accordingly.

There can be no two opinions as to the value of these conferences between the local authorities and the experienced officers of the Local Government Board, and we congratulate that Board on having undertaken betimes this important work.

THE CHOLERA.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WATER THEORY AT MARSEILLES AND ST. PETERSBURG.

DR. FELIX REGNAULT¹ calls attention to one fact in relation to the etiology of the last outbreak of cholera in Marseilles, namely, the water supply of that town. He believes that the water is undoubtedly, in part at least, responsible for the outbreak, as it is of very questionable quality. Marseilles gets its water mainly by a conduit from the River Durance. This channel runs 85 kilometres before it reaches the town, which it enters at a place called La Gavotte. From this point it has only 6 kilometres more to run before reaching its destination, and in its course it forms the well-known cascade of the Palais Longchamps. During this last short course it becomes extremely polluted, owing to its passage through a densely populated neighbourhood, and its being entirely accessible to pollution. It passes through about twenty corn mills, two oil factories, serving as motive power, and, moreover, serves to wash the corn, after which it returns to the channel, and is used for drinking purposes. Regnault reminds readers of the bacteriological researches made in 1890 by Rietsch, Professor in the Marseilles Medical School, who examined the water taken at different places from the channel, and found that the water, until it reached La Gavotte, contained in 1 cubic centimetre less than 300 microbes, namely, less than

the allowed maximum, but at Longchamps he found that it already contained from 1,500 to 5,000. Although it was not made out what part of that number were pathogenic, yet the possibility of there being many such is great in Dr. Regnault's opinion; in view of the fact that the corn washed in the mills above mentioned is brought from Russia, the Levant, and India, in which countries the corn is partly trodden by human feet instead of machinery being employed. It is disgusting to think that this water, in which that dirty corn is washed, should be drunk by the inhabitants of Marseilles. In addition to this, the old part of the town draws some of its water from the Huveaune—a little river charged with the filth of many villages, and containing 10,000 colonies in one cubic centimetre. The writer suggests that the Huveaune should not be used for drinking purposes at all, and that the mills should be furnished with a separate supply of water.

Sodoloff,² reporting on 944 cholera patients treated in the Banteri Hospital of St. Petersburg during the epidemic of last year, says that most of them, according to their own statements, became ill through drinking unboiled water or kwass (a national beverage made of rye bread, with or without malt), or from having eaten doubtful food. As to the special importance of impure water in the etiology of cholera, one interesting and, from a practical point of view, very grave fact has been observed in St. Petersburg at the very outbreak of the epidemic. The first and fatal cases occurred in a suburb called the Vyborg Side amongst the hands employed at the well-known mills of Koneg and Lessner. The sanitary authorities, searching for the source of the disease and finding that the water used by these people was supplied from the Great Nevka, a little tributary of the Neva of questionable purity, ordered the water pipes to be closed and Pasteur's filters to be used. After that the disease ceased, and no further case of cholera occurred among the mill hands. The author says that, after this observation, which in its lucidity is equivalent to an experiment, he has no doubt as to the part played by impure and unboiled water in the spread of cholera. Nothing is said as to the examination of the water for comma bacilli.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE OATHS ACT IN ITS SANITARY ASPECT.

WE are requested to publish the following correspondence between the Home Secretary and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association:—

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Q.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Home Affairs, the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

February 9th, 1893.

SIR,—My attention as Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association has been directed to certain difficulties attending the application of the provisions of the Oaths Act, 1888, which have caused grave annoyance to many members of the medical profession.

It will be within your recollection that, at the instance of the British Medical Association and other bodies and individuals interested in public medicine, a section was inserted in the Oaths Act for the direct purpose of avoiding, as far as possible, the distinct risk of the communication of infectious disease in the process of "kissing the book," to which attention has been urgently directed in recent years by many medical men.

The section declares in express words that "if any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand in the form and manner in which an oath is usually administered in Scotland he shall be permitted so to do, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form and manner without further question;" and the Parliamentary Committee has been advised that under this provision every person to whom an oath is about to be administered is absolutely entitled without reason given, and especially without being questioned as to his religious belief, to elect to be sworn in the Scottish form.

Attention having been called in the JOURNAL of this Association and elsewhere to the advantage of the new procedure, many persons connected with the medical profession have objected to the ceremony of "kissing the book," and claimed to be sworn with uplifted hand, stating in many cases expressly that it was for sanitary reasons only.

I hear with surprise that, in spite of the express provisions of the Act, a considerable number of magistrates and coroners have refused to allow the adoption of the statutory usage. In some cases we are informed that they have insisted on some less objectionable copy of the Bible being procured, while in other cases they have practically forced witnesses to affirm.

The Committee is anxious to afford protection to members of the medical profession, upon whom in many cases a public criticism of their religious belief may inflict considerable hardship; but they would, of

¹ *Médecine Moderne*, February 22nd, 1893

² *Bolnichnaja Gazetta Bolkina*, No. 1, 1893.

course, be reluctant to instruct any proceedings at law to be taken against the judicial officers in question if it can be avoided.

I am advised that there is no apparent difficulty as to the procedure to be adopted under the new Act, and I append a copy of the suggestions which under advice I have submitted to such members of the Association as apply for guidance. I should be glad to have an expression from the Home Office as to whether the suggested procedure is correct; and I would at the same time respectfully submit to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs the desirability of issuing, if it be possible, some official statement on the subject, whether by circular or otherwise, to recorders, coroners, police magistrates, justices of the peace, registrars of county courts, clerks to the justices, commissioners of oaths, and other necessary officers, in order that the policy of the Act may not be defeated, and that individuals claiming their legal rights may not be put to serious inconvenience by a continuance of the mistakes referred to.—I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant, ERNEST HART.

Whitehall, February 23rd, 1893.

SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that the representations made by the British Medical Association on the subject of difficulties that have arisen in applying the provisions of Section 5 of the Oaths Act, 1888, shall receive full consideration.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. LEIGH PEMBERTON.

The Chairman of the British Medical Association
(Parliamentary Bills Committee), 429, Strand, W.C.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, March 1st. The President, Sir ANDREW CLARK, Bart., was in the chair.

The Council presented its annual report and the treasurers' statement of accounts. The report stated that the experience of the past year gave every reason to hope that as soon as the floating building debt was cleared off (and it had now been reduced to a very small sum), the treasurers would be able to begin a sinking fund for the repayment of the debenture debt.

After some discussion the report was adopted.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the annual address, in which, after referring to those Fellows who had died during the past year, he touched upon the subject of confederating the existing medical societies, and stated that probably some steps would soon be taken in order to ascertain the opinion of the profession at large upon this question.

On the recommendation of the Council the meeting unanimously voted the quinquennial Marshall Hall Prize to Dr. W. R. Gowers for his original work in relation to diseases of the nervous system.

The ballot was then taken for the election of officers and council for the ensuing year, and those whose names were published last week were elected.

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. TIMOTHY HOLMES, and seconded by Dr. STEPHEN MACKENZIE, to the retiring honorary secretary, Dr. Frederick Taylor, for his exceptional services during three years, brought the meeting to a close.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1893. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on April 19th, July 19th, and October 25th, 1893. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely, March 30th, June 29th, and October 4th, 1893.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No member can be elected by a Branch Council unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation

of the Members in commodious apartments, at the Offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the Office.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.—A special general meeting of this Branch will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, in the Theatre of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street. Dr. Pavy, President, will take the chair at 8 P.M. Business: The Midwives Question.—ANDREW CLARK, ISAMBARD OWEN, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—A meeting of the above district will be held at the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, on Tuesday, March 7th, at 3.45 P.M. Mr. M. A. Adams in the chair. The dinner will take place at the Mitre Hotel, at 6.30 P.M. Charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wine. To facilitate the arrangements, gentlemen who intend to dine are particularly requested to signify their intention to the chairman, Mr. M. A. Adams, Trinity House, Maidstone, not later than Monday, March 6th. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend this meeting, and to introduce professional friends. Communications, etc.: To ascertain the opinion of the meeting on the Abuse of Medical Charities, and the "Wage Limit." Dr. J. V. Bell: On the Question of a Medical Tariff for the Towns of Maidstone, Rochester, and Gravesend. Dr. Tannahill: (1) Clinical Notes on Colour Blindness; (2) On Lupus and its Treatment by Koch's Method. Dr. Andrew Fullerton: A case of Peripheral Neuritis; the patient will be exhibited. Mr. Percy T. Adams: Remarks upon a Special Form of Conjunctivitis to which Hop-pickers are liable. Some interesting Microscopical Sections will be shown by Dr. Fullerton.—E. GROUND, Honorary Secretary of the District, 1, Ashford Road, Maidstone.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Church Road, Upper Norwood, on Thursday, March 9th, at 4 P.M. Dr. Henry Hetley, of Upper Norwood, in the chair. Dinner at 6 P.M., charge 7s., exclusive of wine. The following papers, etc., will be read:—Mr. E. Noble Smith: Some Practical Points in the Treatment of Joint Disease. Mr. H. Betham Robinson: On the Value of Certain Signs in the Diagnosis and Prognosis of Diseases of the Breast. Mr. H. G. Plimmer: Demonstration of some Pathogenic Micro-organisms, with Oxyhydrogen Microphotographs and Cultivations. Members desirous of exhibiting or reading notes of cases are invited to communicate at once with the Honorary Secretary. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend, and to introduce professional friends.—HENRY J. PRANGLEY, Honorary Secretary, Tudor House, Anerley, S.E.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICTS.—A joint meeting of East and West Sussex Districts will be held at Brighton on March 29th. Members desirous of exhibiting or reading notes of cases are requested to communicate at once with J. W. BATTERHAM, Honorary District Secretary, Bank House, Grand Parade, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will be held at the Railway Hotel, Staplehurst, on Thursday, March 16th, at 2.45 P.M. Mr. G. Montague Tuke, M.R.C.S., of Sutton Valence, in the chair. The Chairman will open a discussion on Diphtheria. Dr. Tyson: Backache; its Causes and Treatment. Dr. Colville: A Case of Alcoholic Paralysis. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend these meetings, and to introduce professional friends.—THOS. F. RAVEN, Honorary District Secretary, Barfield House, Broadstairs.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.—The intermediate meeting will be held at Pwllheli at the latter end of March. Members wishing to read papers, exhibit cases or specimens, or propose new members, are requested to intimate on or before March 11th to W. JONES MORRIS, Honorary Secretary, Is-y-Coel, Portmadoc.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, March 23rd, at 5 o'clock; dinner at 5.30. Subject for discussion: The Diagnosis of Rôtheln, to be opened by Dr. Meredith. Members desirous of bringing forward communications should send to the Honorary Secretary notice of its title; and also inform him two or three days before the meeting if it is their intention to be at the dinner.—W. M. KELLY, M.D., Honorary Secretary, Taunton.

OXFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday, March 24th, in the Radcliffe Infirmary, at 3 P.M. Notice of papers, cases, etc., should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, W. LEWIS MORGAN, 37, Broad Street, Oxford, on or before March 13th.

THE next quarterly meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at the Medical Institution, Liverpool, on Thursday next, March 9th, at 3.30 P.M. Papers will be read by Dr. Wigglesworth on General Paralysis occurring during the Period of Puberty; by Dr. F. St. J. Bullen on the Out-patient System in connection with Asylums; and by Dr. J. C. Mackenzie on General Paralysis, Alcoholic Insanity, and Allied Neuroses in the Celtic Highlander. Dr. Goodall will give a lantern demonstration. The members will dine together at 7 P.M.