

Parasites are used in a very wide sense. They include both large and small living creatures. "Under Animal Parasites we have such a relatively large animal as a Worm, as well as the minute parasite of Malarial Fever, which can be seen only with the help of an extremely strong magnifying glass. Vegetable Parasites include Moulds (a common though not disease-producing species, known as Green-mould, is sometimes seen on stale bread) as also the minute Bacteria or Microscopical Plants which cause diseases such as Consumption and Typhoid Fever."

#### ANIMAL PARASITES WHICH INFECT THE SKIN.

These are the Common Flea (*Pulex irritans*), the Rat Flea (*Pulex cheopis*) which conveys plague from rat to man, the Louse (*Pediculus*), the Body-Louse (*P. corporis*) which lays her eggs in clothing, and the Head-Louse (*P. capitis*) and the Itch Mite (*Acarus scabiei*) which belongs to the spider family. The female burrows into the skin and lays her eggs, causing intense itching. The condition is highly contagious, and the parasites are carried in the clothes and bedding.

#### ANIMALS WHICH INFECT THE INTESTINAL CANAL.

(A) *Worms*: the principal are Tape-worms (*Cestodes*), Fluke-worms (*Trematodes*) and Round-worms (*Nematodes*). All three types lay eggs, the discovery of which in the excreta of the patient provides a ready means of diagnosis.

(B) *The Amœba of Dysentery* (*Entamoeba histolytica*). This parasite belongs to the Protozoa, the lowest form of animal life. It causes the most severe form of Tropical Dysentery. It is transmitted from man to man by the infected excreta, the common House-fly frequently acting as an intermediary by picking up the parasites from infected material and depositing them on food.

#### ANIMAL PARASITES WHICH INFECT THE BLOOD STREAM.

With the exception of the *Filaria Sanguinis hominis* found in the blood in Filariasis, a tropical disease, the majority of Blood-parasites, which belong to the family of Protozoa, are extremely small. They include the parasites of Malaria, Sleeping Sickness and many other tropical diseases. Protozoa also include the *Spirochetes*, some of which remain in the blood stream, as in Relapsing Fever, and others become localised in the tissues of the body such as the *Spirochete* of Syphilis.

#### VEGETABLE PARASITES.

"Probably," we are told, "the most important disease producing parasites belong to the vegetable world. They hold a very low order in the scale of plant life (*Thallophytes*). The individual organisms are so small that they can be seen only with the aid of a microscope, and are therefore called Micro-organisms, or, more popularly, Microbes." In addition to the Moulds and the Bacteria already mentioned, the Yeasts (*Blasto-mycetes*) belong to this type, but are not dealt with. The *Moulds* are: (1) Moulds affecting the hairy skin—ringworm of the scalp, and ringworm of the beard; (2) Moulds affecting the Glabrous Skin—ringworm of the body

and *Tinea versicolor*; (3) Moulds affecting the Skin generally, *Favus* being the most important of these diseases.

The *Bacteria* are the most elementary form of plant life; they are commonly called micro-organisms. The study of Bacteria is called Bacteriology. They are to be found everywhere, in the air, soil, and water. Very many—in fact the majority—are useful, but some are harmful and cause disease. Those which are parasitic for man are referred to as the Pathogenic or Disease-producing Bacteria. "Pathogenic Bacteria are responsible for such diseases as: Abscesses, Puerperal Fever, Meningitis, Gonorrhœa, Pneumonia, Typhoid Fever, Food-poisoning, Bacillary Dysentery, Cholera, Plague, Diphtheria, Consumption, Leprosy, Anthrax, Lock-jaw, and many other conditions."

We advise all probationers, as well as trained nurses, to study this booklet. It will give them a clear idea of the many parasites which may infect the human body and their method of attack.

We are indebted to the publishers for our illustration of Animal Parasites, a second one of Vegetable Parasites is equally interesting and illuminating.

### PROGRESS OF BOVRIL.

A very satisfactory report was presented at the thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Bovril Australian Estates, Ltd., held on December 15th at the registered offices of the company, 152-166, Old Street, E.C., at which the Chairman, the Hon. Sir Cornthwaite H. Rason, presided. The Company now hold 10,000,000 acres of land on lease for twenty-one years in the northern territory of Australia, during which the Chairman stated there must be vast developments. Even if the leases were not renewed at the end of that time, they would still have their immense herd of cattle, horses, camels and mules, besides stores and plant of every description. The satisfactory announcement was made that on December 31st warrants for the half-year's dividend on account of 1921 at the rate of 7 per cent. (less income tax) would be posted to the shareholders.

Sir George Lawson Johnston (Vice-Chairman) spoke of the position of the voluntary hospitals in this country and described the system in Canada and the United States of America, from which he had just returned, of the provision for paying patients, which brought in a steady revenue to the great hospitals of those countries.

### THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to record the sudden death, on December 16th, from heart failure, of Sister Miriam Howell, Sister-in-Charge of the operating theatres at the Middlesex Hospital, and for thirty years a devoted and faithful member of the nursing staff of that hospital. A memorial service is being held in the Hospital Chapel at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, December 22nd, and the funeral takes place subsequently at Brookwood Cemetery.

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