

Most of the known causes of disease in temperate climates are bacteria. Some of the diseases of tropical countries are also caused by bacteria; but the best known of them are due to protozoan parasites. Some of them are associated with organisms of uncertain position and of a few the cause is still unknown. The protozoan parasites are much larger than bacteria, and are often actively motile. For this reason, they can be seen with the microscope much more easily than can bacteria. Their visibility is doubtless one of the reasons which have caused so much work to be done in tropical diseases and which has contributed to the success of that work; it was one reason which led Ehrlich to use trypanosomes for the researches which gave "606". Many problems of tropical disease remain to be solved; many schools of tropical medicine and many laboratories in the tropics offer facilities for their solution. No other field of study offers more entertainment and greater probability of satisfaction to post-graduates who wish to do research work. And, nearer home, there are things to be done by methods which have taught much to those who study the diseases of hot countries; almost nothing is known of the protozoan parasites of Canadian fauna—and flora; nor do we know how ticks paralyze children and lambs in British Columbia.

It is repeated, every Canadian student of medicine should know something of the diseases that do not usually occur in Canada; he should know something of them because he may be called upon to deal with them and, more important, because a knowledge of them is necessary for an alert and comprehensive understanding of human pathology.