

tion to the possibly sexual character of the thyroid from studies on primitive vertebrate types. This may account for the increase of the gland in size under certain conditions.

The carrying of heavy weights upon the head has been thought to be a factor by many observers. In our country districts the women, in which it is said the greater percentage of goitrous cases occur, do not employ this means of carriage as in some other countries. Among the men in some of the remote parts of this province a collier or head-pack strap is used. This passes over the forehead and the weight or pack is placed over the lumbar region. One will frequently see the *habitants* use a form of collier or shoulder board for a bucket at each end, similar to those used in the provinces of France. It is hard to prove from an anatomical standpoint that the carrying of weights in the manner described should cause goitre by vascular congestion or stasis.

Recently, an attempt has been made to trace the disease to a micro-organism. Kocher found 33 species of bacteria in goitrous water against a very much smaller number (nine) in non-goitrous water. He or his collaborator (Prof. Travel, University of Berne) were unable to fix upon any one micro-organism as specific, however. Yet these bacteria collectively caused enlargement of the gland in guinea-pigs. Kocher is non-committal upon the subject, *i.e.*, the active agent. Lustig and Carle also mention the large number of bacteria found in goitrous water, and have cultivated a bacillus. They have induced goitre in dogs and horses by this water.

Mitchell is inclined to think that goitre, from a study of it in relation to malaria among the troops in Assam, is possibly due to an amœboid organism, perhaps possibly resembling Laveran's corpuscle.

Whether the waters of this district or province will throw any further light upon the subject remains to be seen. A large field of investigation remains open. Goitrous areas, removed from the main rivers and in which the inhabitants use well water are seen in many places about this city. Goitre occurs to a moderate degree. In a small settlement some distance back from Vaudreuil the farmers are markedly goitrous. To the south of the city, in the Townships, and especially in the county of Beauharnois, it is prevalent. East of Montreal, in the counties of Berthier and Terrebonne, it is also common. In these latter areas, however, river and well water are both used.

As you are well aware, goitre has been from ancient times considered a water-borne disease, and the prevalent opinion has also been that goitrous water was that holding in solution large quantities of lime, iron, copper, and magnesium salts. These minerals do occur in more or less quantity hereabouts, but I have not been able to obtain a single