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MEDICAL PROTOZOLOGY*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen:—

Physicians are now-a-days quite accustomed to think of disease as the expression of the infection of a living being by a parasite. The more common pathogenic parasites belong to the vegetable kingdom; they may be bacteria or, more rarely, fungi of various sorts. We are less accustomed to regard animal parasites as causes of disease, although they do cause destructive ones. All animal beings may be divided into two classes; unicellular organisms called Protozoa and multicellular ones or Metazoa. Of these two groups the Protozoa are much the more important and the object of this paper is to discuss them and their importance to us as medical practitioners.

Protozoology as applied to medicine, is comparatively speaking, a new subject and I do not doubt that you are asking yourselves why it has been chosen for the subject of this address.

*This address was delivered at Regina on July 22nd, 1908, before the Saskatchewan Medical Association.