

PARASITIC PROTOZOA.

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It is not the purpose of the writer to bring forward any new data in regard to the organisms considered, but merely to give a somewhat popular summary of three types of Protozoa which are capable of entailing grave disturbances in man when they gain access to his tissues. The various branches of science have multiplied so rapidly in recent years and the results achieved by the small army of investigators are so numerous, that it is very difficult to keep pace even in one department.

When the morbid processes present in man began to be studied microscopically for their aetiological factors, it was scarcely anticipated that living organisms were the prime cause in a great many instances. Such, however, is the case, and in consequence pathologists unintentionally became biologists. The fact that the majority of the results published by the former class of men are to be found only in Medical and Pathological journals, and the thought that probably a summary of some of the results connected with certain forms of *Protozoa* and their relation to disease might not be uninteresting to the readers of the Record, have prompted this paper.

For a long time it has been known that the alimentary tract of different animals is subject to the presence of parasites, some of the stages of which may penetrate the deeper tissue and there remain until death, in an encysted condition, or in some cases may even cause death by their depredations as in Trichinosis. Familiar examples of these are the *Nematoda* or round worms of a great many different species; the *Trematoda* or flukes, which pass some of their stages in the intestinal canal and livers of the host causing the fatal condition in sheep known as the liver rot; and the *Cestoda* or tape worms, which require to pass through two hosts generally before the different phases of its life cycle are completed. The no less familiar instances of the different members of *Æstridæ* whose larvæ are found in the stomach as the botfly, or beneath the epidermal tis-