and that when this complication had occurred, it had been invariably successfully met by the use of hydrogen dioxide in the manner described in the paper. He advised the excision of the diseased portion of the gut in those instances where it had become much thickened and friable, and expressed the belief that with a clearer understanding of the objects to be attained by operation—i. e., the restoration of the integrity of the intestinal canal, as well as the closure of the opening in the bowel—future operations for the cure of the faecal fistula would more frequently result successfully than they had in the past.—Medical Lancet.

MALARIA AND THE MOSQUITO.

The latest, and what may turn out to be the most important development of the malaria theory, is due, a correspondent writes, to an Englishman, Dr. Manson, lecturer on tropical diseases at St. George's Hospital in London. Led by much study of this and other parasites, he has come to the conclusion that the infection of malaria is carried on by no other than our old friend the mosquito. Up to the present, of course, it has been generally supposed that malaria arises from swamps, and so on, in the shape of "blue mists," and malarious winds; and Manson's theory if true, will be an important revolution in our ideas. Besides those forms of the parasite which develop at regular intervals and cause fever, there is another form, not unlike a minute sausage, which produces no fever and the meaning and object of which has been much debated. Directly after the blood is drawn from the finger, and while it is being watched under the microscope, this curious little body is seen to swell up suddenly, and then emit several long wriggling filaments, which, after struggling violently for a few minutes, may sometimes be seen to break loose and dart away out of sight. It looks just as if several little snakes were issuing from an orange. What the meaning of so strange a phenomenon can be, no one has been able to conjecture, until Manson gave a number of theoretical reasons which furnish us with good grounds for supposing that it is intended for the benefit of the mosquito. As soon as that confiding insect has fed herself (for only the female mosquito can bite us) on the blood of a malarial patient, this curious metamorphosis goes on within her, and the serpent-like bodies dart away and bury themselves somewhere in her tissue, there develop into another form of the organism. When the time comes for her to lay eggs on the water and die there, the transformed malaria germs disappear in the fluid and lie ready to be drunk by some unlucky mortal. Let us be vindictive, and hope that while they remain inside the mosquito they annoy her as much as she is in the habit of annoying us. So Manson thinks on theoretical grounds; and a very little actual investigation is enough to show us that the sausage-shaped bodies do really change within the mosquito, in the manner described. But between this and the complete proof of the theory is a far cry. If that proof be obtained, it will add a stronger reason than ever to those which already should induce us to boil our drinking water and have the wells throughout the country properly covered in and supplied with pumping gear. Of course, as Manson seems to think, in some parts of the country, malaria may be an endemic disease among the mosquitoes which infect us by laying their tiny eggs in our drinking water (not by biting us); if so, we shall have to attend rather to our water supply than to those "meteors, mists and exhalations" which have troubled us so long.—Lancet.

INFECTION BY PETS.

Cats have been suspected of conveying the infection of diphtheria, and scarlet fever has been traced to them. To this may be added the unwelcome news that a health officer has reported a case of small-pox which has been brought about in the same way; that is to say, by a cat from an infected house entering a neighbor's.—Popular Science.