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SLEEPING SICKNESS.*

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At present in England, the subject of tropical medicine is attracting widespread attention and, undoubtedly, experimental medicine is responsible for the greatest advances, which have come to light within the past few years. The discoveries of Novy and McNeal are of much importance, the first in fact to obtain pure cultures of protozoa, maintaining trypanosomes of different species alive. The recent discovery during the past year, of protozoal parasites in the blood of different animals, in addition to many new species of trypanosome, is of much interest, and more particularly owing to the close affinity of these discoveries, with sleeping sickness. So far as known, the first to observe sleeping sickness was Winterbottom, who wrote a brief paper in 1803, giving an account of the native Africans in the neighborhood of Sierra Leone. The next reports of importance were those of Dumontier and Santelli in 1868, but by far the most important and accurate account is by Corre, who studied the disease in the natives of Senegambia. In 1891, Mackenzie recorded a case of sleeping sickness in the London Hospital, and, in 1900, Manson made a special record of two cases. Charing Cross Hospital, sent from the Congo by Dr. Grattan Guinness. Dr. Mott, the able neurologist of Charing Cross, worked out carefully the pathological histology, and defined the lesion as one of the nature of meningo-encephalitis. Until within a limited period the geographical distribution of sleeping sickness was limited to West Africa. For some years it has also been known in the Congo, as well as in several of the West Coast areas. In 1900, Cook discovered sleeping sickness in Uganda, since which date the disease has spread widely towards the north shore of Victoria Nyanza lake.

From the various reports of local observers, the epidemic area of sleeping sickness is confined to parts of equatorial Africa. On the upper and lower Congo, the disease has been noted in epidemic form, large numbers of the population falling victims to its influence.

As to the cause of this disease many hypotheses have been propounded in explanation, such as an intoxication of food, animal parasites, and bacteria. Since November, 1902, Castellani frequently ob-

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