

with their numbers and importance, and this with decided advantage to the progress of natural science generally.

No more important or welcome contributions have been made within the last few years to the common stock of scientific information than those concerning parasites, whether regarded for their brilliant illustration of the theory of types, the general principles of classification, and the doctrines of physiology, or their practical bearing upon important industrial pursuits, and the science and the art of medicine and veterinary surgery. Although all departments of this extensive subject are full of interest, yet inasmuch as the entozoa and especially those infesting the human subject have been investigated with the most satisfactory results, and present points of singular novelty in their history. I am especially attracted towards them in collecting materials for this article.

Accordingly after a few general observations which the subject naturally suggests, and some necessary brief allusions to individual species of vegetable parasites, which by their singularity or important relations to man especially engage attention, I propose to take into consideration the human entozoa and exhibit as nearly as possible the present condition of scientific knowledge concerning them.

Some allusion will necessarily be made during the course of the investigation to entozoa found only in the lower animals, in order to illustrate more clearly the history of those infesting the human subject. Some important facts I have myself been privileged to verify; the most of them are given upon the authority of Von Siebold Kuchenmeister, and other distinguished and accurate observers. Whatever theories may be broached must be taken for what they are worth.

The rightful study of natural phenomena induces speculation but does not permit the imagination to run away with the judgment, for it continually induces the mind to trace effects back to their causes, and *felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas*. It continually submits the results of previous observation to the trial of new facts. Hence, as the field of positive knowledge widens opinions and theories which once seemed correct are found to be erroneous. The ideas of the previous year are continually revolutionized by the discoveries of the present one, until a primitive fact or law is discovered, which then becomes a foundation for the particular branch of science in which it is found, and as far as it extends gives to that branch the character