

*operandi* of the parasite must differ essentially from that of the micro-organisms of ordinary zymotic disease. At the present time the most that can honestly be said with regard to the results of the investigations into the parasitology of cancer is that those investigations have revealed the occasional presence in the cancer cells of a series of very curious bodies. These bodies may be of the nature of sporozoa, they may with perhaps equal plausibility be regarded as the results of endogenous cell degeneration. So long ago as 1889-90 I gave out and demonstrated to my morbid histology class at Cambridge sections of a cancer of the scrotum showing these bodies. I am as much in doubt as to the nature of these bodies to-day as I was then. I leave it to Dr. Martin to bring before the Society the main results of the observations that have been made in this subject so far.

But it seems to me that even if we grant that cancer is caused by this parasite, we have not arrived very much further. In the first place, in all other parasitic and microbic diseases with which we are acquainted, general infection is brought about by the conveyance of the *microbe* from the primary seat of growth to other regions of the body by the lymph or the blood stream. In cancer general infection (a term which in consequence I am inclined to dislike seeing used in this connection, I prefer "metastasis") is essentially associated with a totally different process, namely, the conveyance of *tissue cells*. It is the cells carried to other regions by the lymph or the blood stream that there proliferate, and the secondary growths are in the oldest and strictest sense colonial. Just as the old Greek colonies were established by members of a community who migrated to a distance and there founded a new community of like constitution to the old, but wholly separate and owing no allegiance, so is it with the metastatic cancer growths. Even if in these migrating cells parasites be present, it must be admitted that we are dealing with a new type of infection wholly distinct from that induced by the tubercle bacillus, for example, and as a consequence we cannot predicate that the laws determining the prevention of one will determine the prevention of the other.

In the second place, granting that parasites bear an ætiological relation to cancer, we are still left in the dark as to why parasites induce certain cells of the body to take on a functionless and heterotopic growth. At most we acknowledge that an obscure organism originates aberrant vital processes on the part of sundry cells; and inasmuch as similar aberrant vital processes are known to take place in other cells without there being any suggestion of similar parasites being present, we are led, I think harmfully, to separate off sharply