

lus malarix were based, could not therefore be taken as conclusive. Dr. Strenberg himself, in his treatise on the subject, confessed the general ignorance of the real nature of the cause of malaria and defined it as being "an unknown poison of telluric origin."

Finally, in 1881, Laveran, of Paris, announced his discovery of a parasite which he believed to be the true malaria germ. These parasitic elements had been found by him in 180 out of 192 persons suffering from malarial poisoning, and they disappeared on the administration of quinine. Amid the conflicting claims of rival germs, but scant attention was paid to the discovery which made so great an acquisition to our knowledge, an acquisition stated to be "as important as that which revealed the true etiology and pathology of continued fevers in Europe." Sir Joseph Fayrer in his lecture on Indian Fevers, 1882, remarked that "the existence of malaria as a particulate thing has not yet been demonstrated, there are circumstances connected with its action which are difficult to reconcile with a parasitic origin." By degrees, however, the discovery of Laveran gained ground. His statements were confirmed by observers in different parts of the world. Richard in Algiers, Marchiasava and Celli in Italy, and Osler in America, endorsed the old facts and added new ones. Finally, Golgi pointed out the relation between the biological cycle of the parasite and the events of the fever cycle. There could no longer be any doubt that Laveran's parasite was the germ of malaria. It took its place as an established fact of pathology. The following description of the parasite, is taken from a lecture by Dr. Manson:—

On examining the blood of a patient suffering from malaria at the period of rigor, there can be seen floating amongst the red corpuscles, single spherical bodies which are quite isolated. These are the youngest forms of the parasite. A little later on, these bodies will have stormed the red corpuscles and appear as pale minute spots in or on the corpuscles. A few hours later, another examination will show, not the pale epicorpuscular specks, but actively moving, pale amceboid bodies, evidently within the corpuscles. These bodies push out pseudopodia into the surrounding hæmoglobin. They continue to increase in size, and after a time each one contains a few grains of a dark red pigment which is ever changing its position. Later on yet, we find similar pale bodies but now they are almost quiescent and nearly fill the corpuscles they occupy. The pigment is collected into clumps and is scarcely moving. A final examination will show the bodies as morula-like masses, consisting of 10 to 20 spherules heaped around a central mass of pigment grains. These bodies may be free or surrounded by the shell of a red corpuscle. The former appear to be