

II.—*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 trypanosomas 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 trypanosoma, 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 neighbourhood 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 in Charing Cross Hospital, sent from "The Congo," by Dr. Grattan Guinness: Dr. Mott, the able neurologist of Charing Cross, worked out carefully, the pathological history, 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 observed "trypanosoma" in "Sleeping Sickness," in fact he discovered trypanosoma in the cerebro spinal fluid of 20 out of 34 patients. Accord-