

tises much among the common class of people will often find the question of entozoa gravely mooted in his presence. In those palmy days of empiricism as soon as a child presented any of the incongruous symptoms supposed to indicate the presence of these dire destroyers of juvenile health and comfort, straightway, in the quaint language of Kuchenmeister, "the time-honored worm medicine was administered with one hand, under terror of the wholesome birch wielded by the other." If the domestic remedies did not succeed in expelling the unwelcome intruders, or in curing the cachexia upon which they were supposed to depend, the family physician, or perhaps some great specialist upon worms, was summoned, who skilfully directing his medication to the supposed indications, either removed the causative cachexia; or, by a *coup de maitre*, killed the entozoa without injuring the living covers that they infested; or, by altering the character of the intestinal secretions, rendered them no longer acceptable to their despoilers; or, lastly, by such mechanical irritants as the enema, drove the intruders out of the intestines. Often after the administration of powerful drastic and cholagogue cathartics, the copious digestions of blood-altered bile, and intestinal mucus, were triumphantly pointed to as the mangled remains of animals, whose very presence was problematical. All this is happily altered now. Although entozoa are as abundant as of yore, yet the improved knowledge which present physicians possess of their pathology and treatment, has greatly humanized this department of medicine. To cause dangerous mucoenteritis in the expulsion of entozoa would now be considered mal-practice.

The wonderful discoveries that have been made by means of the microscope among parasites infesting the human subject constitute a basis for startling speculation. Thus, diseases that used to be attributed to other causes are now boldly referred to a parasitic origin, although the parasites may not be discovered. The Cholera Asiatica of the present century, the Black Death, and Sweating Sickness of former periods, present many features and analogies favorable to this supposition. The highest powers of the microscope have failed to define the limits of vitality, so vastly minute are some of the animalcular inhabitants of the earth. Hence, although we should fail to detect them, microscopic organisms may still be the cause of disease. Their presence in such a case would need to be determined by negative evidence,—the diagnosis made by exclusion. The probabil-