

and condemned, while the good things (if any there be) are approved and endorsed by men of experience and ability.

Perhaps on no subject connected with medicine have more theories been advanced or divergence of opinion expressed than that of malaria, and I must confess that I know very little of its etiology after reading most of these theories, aided by an experience of nearly thirty years practice in a malarious district; but scientists and investigators of the present day are approaching more nearly the solution of this knotty question.

It is a generally recognised and acknowledged fact that three things are necessary for the production of malaria, viz. : heat, moisture and vegetable decomposition, and unless these three causes combine we can have no malaria.

Modern research has shown that vegetable decomposition of organic matter in the soil is due to the vital activity of living organisms, and we are indebted to such men as Laveran, Carter, Councilman, Sternberg, Osler and others for their original investigations and untiring efforts to solve this problem, and it is owing to them, particularly the former, that something like a conclusion has been arrived at, that micro-organisms in the blood, if not the cause of malaria, have an etiological relation to it, and are beyond doubt a diagnostic mark of its presence in the system.

Laveran's theory has come to be the one generally accepted by the profession, as communicated to the Paris Academy of Medicine in 1881 and 1882 and afterwards published in 1884. He found, as characteristic elements of the blood of persons attacked with malaria, first, crescentic pigmented bodies; second, pigmented bodies in the interior of the red corpuscles which underwent changes in form described as amoeboid; third, a pigmented flagellate organism.

The following brief summary of the important facts relating to these organisms I take from a monograph by Osler:—First, in acute forms of malaria there exists within certain of the red corpuscles amoeboid bodies, usually pigmented, which undergo a definite evolution, increasing in size, gradually filling the entire corpuscle, and which, prior to and during the chill, undergo a