

individual. Their history has been examined with great care by modern observers, and some departments of the subject have been investigated with great success.

Of all the classes, the Cestoidea are best understood. Many interesting facts in connection with the Trematoda are known, but others still require elucidation; and the same remark is applicable to the Nematoidea.

All sorts of animals have been opened in search of Entozoa, and when discovered, their anatomy and physiology have been carefully scrutinized, so as to determine their affinities.

When it is recollected that Helminthology as a science dates from a very recent period, that the metamorphoses of Entozoa are extraordinary, and without apparent analogy among the animals inhabiting the outer world, as they were known to the older naturalists, there is abundant reason for satisfaction at the position which this department of Zoology at present occupies. The facts discovered are *new*; the mind has not habitually contemplated them, hence their due value as yet, may not be accurately determined. In Linnæus' *Natural System*, 12th edition, eleven species of intestinal worms are described. In Rudolphi's *Synopsis entozoorum*, nearly one thousand are catalogued. Since his time, some of his species have been corrected and consolidated, but others have been discovered.

Here as elsewhere, presumption has impeded the acquisition of positive knowledge. Nature has often been interrogated in a wrong spirit. Observers have not invariably manifested a single-hearted desire for the truth, irrespective of preconceived notions. False impressions acquired by one sided and too hasty observations have not unfrequently been pertinaciously maintained, with an unfairness highly reprehensible. When Von Siebold established the identity of the scolex of the cystic worms with the head of the tape-worms; he did good service to the cause of science. But his pertinacious maintenance of his opinion that the cystic worms were strayed and degenerate or monstrous cestoids, long stood in the way of the acceptance of the true explanation concerning these two forms.

Many of the older naturalists, because they could not *see* certain entozoa spring from eggs, although sexual, considered their origin spontaneous.

The identity of the scolex of the cystic worm, with the head of the cestoid having been ascertained, an important question yet remained