

parasite will be noted hereafter. Seuckart says: "Whenever an animal is too small and too imperfectly armed to overawe and destroy that which its instinct leads it to seek for nourishment, it must be content with robbing it by feeding upon its juices and solid parts." Thus the sheep in pasturing in certain localities swallows unconsciously a dreadful enemy—the six-hooked embryo of the *Cœnurus cerebralis* encased in its coat of mail: for such in truth may be called in its particular case the eggshell in which it is securely developed, amid the hazardous vicissitudes to which it is exposed. Set free from this ovular envelope by the action of the digestive juices in the alimentary canal, the *cœnurus* commences an active-passive migration to the brain, where it causes the disease well known as the "staggers," from a prominent symptom manifested. The disease called the "measles" in the hog depends upon a similar cystic worm the *cysticercus cellulosæ*. Carnivora like the wolf, the dog, and man himself, feeding upon these infected herbivora, become themselves infested with tape worms.

From the preceding observations it may be gathered, that parasites exert a very decided influence over man's natural well-being, through their ravages upon his means of support. Yet the discoveries that have been made regarding them are among the crowning triumphs of the scientific skill, industry, and acumen of the observers of the present day, in contradistinction to those of the past.

But still farther. The science and the art of medicine have for many centuries been cultivated with zeal and assiduity by a class of men who specially devoted their attention to the subject. The diseases which affect the human frame have always been regarded as worthy of special attention, and honors and emoluments have been heaped upon the successful physician. But strange to say, until the present century the parasites infesting the human subject remained in almost total obscurity. By some fatality the small number of disconnected facts with which the elder physicians *were* familiar, received a false interpretation. Their production, mode of nutrition, and anatomy, were all misunderstood, and the symptoms supposed to indicate their presence were vague, trivial, and incongruous. There was a general opinion among medical men of their vast abundance which, as may be easily imagined, found an exaggerated reflection among the laity. In fact *worms* were the bugbear of old women and anxious mothers. Even at the present day the physician who prac-