

any of the constituents of the blood were undergoing fatty degeneration. I think Raspail gives the explanation most applicable to this case. He maintains that fat is set free in the blood for want of a free alkali to hold it in the form of a soap. The fatty matters may have entered into the blood along with the chyle through the thoracic duct, or it may have been elaborated in, and absorbed directly from, the liver; in either case it is very probable, from its present appearance, that some of it at least was once in combination with the alkali of the blood.

In consideration of the facts elicited by this examination, I present this as a case of necræmia from shock.—*American Medical Times*.

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ON A CASE OF TAPEWORM (*TÆNIA MEDIOCANELLATA*,) SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH OIL OF MALE FERN.

By EDWARD HART VINEN, M.D., F.L.S.

As I consider every instance in which tapeworm has been successfully treated, with the means by which its removal was effected, deserves to be recorded, I forward for insertion in *THE LANCET* the following case, in which two small doses of the oil of male fern were sufficient to effect a cure:—

In July of last year, I was consulted for a little boy eight years of age, who, I was told, had for a long time previous been in the habit of passing large portions of tapeworm. The first time this was noticed was in the previous November, (1862), which induced his mother to apply for advice to a medical brother living in Scotland. He recommended decoction of pomegranate bark, which was administered frequently, and always with the effect of bringing away considerable portions of the worm; but as the remedy only gave partial relief, the mother consulted me.

As the child was very delicate, I prescribed a small dose—twenty-five minims—of oil of male fern, in mucilage, with peppermint water, to be taken at bedtime, and followed by a dose of castor oil in the morning if necessary. The result was that a large portion of the worm was expelled; but I looked in vain for the head, although from the appearance of the upper segments it was evident that the separation had taken place not far below it. At the end of a week I gave a second dose of the oil, the same strength as the first (viz., twenty-five minims), with a most successful result, for the head was expelled the next day.

My own impression was that this worm was the ordinary *tænia solium*; but on showing it to my friend, Dr. T. Spencer Cobbold, he pronounced it to be the *tænia mediocanellata*, which is generally considered to be of