

may be, indeed, that the head, though expelled escapes observation, however diligently sought for; and it is quite certain that much practical experience is often necessary to enable the searcher to find the small isolated and detached head in the midst of dark-coloured faecal matters. Repeatedly I have obtained it after hours of search.

Again, in proof of the statement which I have advanced, respecting the comparative infrequency of cure by the ordinary methods, I may mention that not a few of the numerous cast-off cases to which I have adverted have been those of patients who had undergone more or less severe drugging at intervals extending over a period of several years; moreover, as bearing on the question of diagnosis, it is also my duty to observe that patients have come to me for advice about their tapeworm disorders under far graver circumstances. I mean, that they have been subjected to the trying discipline of taking nauseous and drastic vermifuges for the expulsion of tapeworm and other parasites which, to my certain knowledge, never had any existence, excepting either in their own imaginations or in those of their medical advisers. This is a painful statement to have to make, but it is nevertheless strictly true. One of the most remarkable cases of this description is already recorded in my published *Lectures on Practical Helminthology*, case xxiv, p 44. Others of a similar kind are given in the volume referred to, where it will be seen that the majority of such purely imaginary cases of tapeworm occur either in overworked men or in hysterical women. Certainly they are amongst the most painful cases that we have to deal with; but, taken in connection with the phenomena of true parasitism, they have served to convince me that special knowledge on this subject is not without its practical value.

To return to the particular point previously urged, I have further to remark that, with more care in the exhibition of the ordinary remedies backed by a more thorough appreciation of the general economy and modes of development