

was received in London that trypanosomes had been found in the blood of Lieut. Forbes Tulloch, and there is widespread sympathy expressed for this young and zealous officer suffering in the cause of Science, and the members of the Royal Society of Canada join heartily in the hope that he may make a safe recovery. Since the discovery of trypanosomes, the parasite has been recognized in seven persons of English birth. Of these, three have died, and four are still living. From most recent data a proportion of recoveries is to be looked for in the trypanosome diseases of man, and that the terminal and fatal condition of sleeping sickness is not inevitable, and although a necessary factor in the production of the disease, not always followed by its development, and much work has still to be done, before a positive opinion is arrived at as to either the prognosis or treatment of this disease.

Sleeping sickness has been considered by some experts as a form of beri-beri. Such, however, is not generally accepted. Beri-beri is, in fact, a peripheral neuritis, and developed rapidly. The knee reflex is absent and hyperaesthesia of the muscular system is a striking characteristic. In sleeping sickness those symptoms are wanting; the tremor, pyrexia and lethargy are marked features.

Professor Robert Koch recently investigated sleeping sickness for some months in South Africa, and favors the opinion that this disease has been known on the West Coast of Africa since the beginning of the last century. Sir Claude de Crespigny visited the Hospital at Entebbe, German East Africa, and considered that the disease is conveyed by the tse-tse fly, only about two per cent. disseminating the fatal germ. It is doubtful whether the disease emanates directly from the fly, or the latter conveys it from dead fish, and is spread like yellow fever by mosquitoes. In large sections of Africa the horse is not seen, and cannot survive owing to insects, and the donkey, at one time supposed to be immune, frequently succumbs a victim to a like influence. Dr. Koch inclines to the opinion that sleeping sickness is a form of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The present interchange of commerce with the numerous tribes in South Africa from Britain, and nearly all Europe, makes this disease an important problem, not alone as to the economic future of South Africa, but also as to the outlook in the direction of Public Health.

References.

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