

period of its expulsion. The man never suffered any inconvenience in the interim, and formed one of the battalion of Guards who travelled over land to Canada from Halifax, after the "Trent" difficulty.

He returned from India in September, 1860, and continued to do duty up to the period of his admission into hospital on the 6th April, 1862.

The Guinea worm is found chiefly in Africa; it has been observed also in Arabia-Petræa, the shores of the Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea, River Ganges, Upper Egypt, and Abyssinia. It seems to have been known to the Arabians and Greeks, the latter of whom, according to Pliny, termed it *δρακοντρία*, whence the name *dracunculus*. Læflier, who resided in Africa many years, states that he never found either the worm itself nor its ova in the waters of that country. And Hind, after frequent examinations of the waters of countries where the worm has been observed, declares that he failed in finding the worm or its ova. It is believed by many to be alone developed in the human body, though Rayer, in his work on diseases of the skin, says, "The *filiaria* inhabits the cellular tissue of animals of all classes." According to Sir James McGregor, and other observers, it is almost invariably found in the lower extremities, chiefly in the feet. Of 181 cases collected by Sir James, two only occurred in the hands. As to its solitary habit there is a difference of opinion, some asserting that it is invariably found singly, while others assert that it is not uncommon to meet with several worms in the same patient at the same time.

There is, however, no doubt at the present day on this point. Abundance of evidence is forthcoming, proving the existence of many worms in the same individual at the same time. In the Transactions of the Hydrabad Medical and Philosophical Society, Dr. Minas, of Sirsa, mentions the case of a native, in whom death resulted, and on examination the skin was found an entire network of Guinea worms. Dubois has seen as many as seven taken out at once from the same leg; and Mr. Forbes has seen six or seven extracted from the same patient: at the time he wrote, he was treating a patient in hospital, in whom no less than fifteen worms were exposed and in course of extraction. Drs. Grierson and Lorimer bear similar testimony; and Dr. A. Farre mentions the case of a native, in whom fifty worms existed at the same time.

All writers seem agreed as to its physical characters, but with regard to length, accounts vary from a few inches to several feet. Its size is characteristic, being usually that of a small fiddle-string; the specimen above described resembles a piece of catgut.

Montreal, July, 1864.