THREE UNUSUAL CASES OF PARASITISM (A SLUG, A MYRIAPOD, AND COCKROACHES) REPORTED IN MAN

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Cases of pseudoparasitism and of sporadic parasitism occasionally come to the attention of medical zoologists. Some of these are reduced to errors in observation, some to the chance presence of an organism in a host, some to attempts on the part of hysterical patients to mystify their physicians.

The three following cases are rather unusual and are published on this account.

Sporadic parasitism due to a slug (*Limax flavus*). Specimen II, 165. A slug, determined by Dr. Paul Bartosh as *Limax flavus*, was sent to the Hygienic Laboratory by the Maryland State Department of Health with the report that it was alleged to have been passed from the bowels by a patient in Baltimore.

As it is in good state of preservation it is difficult to assume that it passed through the intestinal canal.

A geophilid myriapod from stomach. No. II, 159. Mr. L. M. McCormack of Asheville, N. C., has recently sent a myriapod with the following history:

"I am sending you a specimen which the physician who brought it into the laboratory declared was in the stomach contents, brought up by a stomach pump; it looks to me like an adventurist and not an intestinal parasite."

Dr. L. O. Howard has determined this organism as a geophilid.

Several cases of the presence or alleged presence of myriapods in man have been recorded and in most instances the organisms have been geophilids. In some cases they were reported from the nasal passages, and associated with severe headache, in others they were reported from the intestine. R. Blanchard has summarized cases recorded by Lütte (1708), Kerckring (1717), Samihort (1729), Blumenbach (1807), Scouetter (1827), Létèvre (1833), Loubet (1860), Le Roy (1878), and Girard (1880).

Crotalaria bugs (*Blattella germanica*) said to have come from an aequus of the jaw. Specimen II, 226. This specimen was forwarded by Dr. Harold N. Cole of Cleveland, Ohio, with the following information:
STYLES—UNUSUAL CASES OF PARASITISM

Patient, a hobo in the City Hospital, had a large horse-chestnut sized swelling under angle of left jaw; the lesion has been very tender and the glands posterior to this are swollen and tender and those of other glands are also seen under the jaw. On Nov. 21, 1934, patient suddenly had a chill with a temperature of 103 and began to expel a bloody sputum; upon examination of this expectoration a capsule was found together with some small arthropods. "Of course we cannot be absolutely sure, but apparently the patient expelled these organisms."

The organisms in question were determined by A. M. Caudell of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, as young codcrunches; the capsule was probably the egg case of the cockroach.

NOTES

Dr. C. A. Kohfeld, Consulting Bacteriologist for the California State Board of Health, in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, has been granted leave of absence for war work. Dr. W. W. Cott has become acting Consulting Bacteriologist in charge of the Bacteriological Division during Professor Kohfeld’s absence.

The Severance Union Medical College at Seoul, Korea, which was established as a special school on May 30, 1927, includes in its plan of organization a Research Department under the direction of Dr. Ralph C. Mills. Prominent among its aims as listed in the report of the director stands, "To investigate biological and ecological problems, especially those that bear upon the questions of animal parasites and native drugs."

The National Research Council has asked the persons named below to serve as a committee on medical zoology which will be related to the one hand to its work in zoology and on the other hand to more especially to its work on medicine.

ENTOMOLOGY

Dr. L. O. Howard, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (chairman of group); Prof. Charles T. Hsu, University of Illinois, Urbana; Prof. C. V. Riley, Cornell University, Ithaca.

ZOOLOGY

Prof. (Major, S. C. N. A.) C. A. Kohfeld, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. (chairman of group) (Fort Sam Houston, Texas); Dr. Throop Smith, Rockefeller Institute, Princeton, N. J.; Prof. R. G. Novy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

HELMINTHODIST

Prof. Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois, Urbana (chairman); Dr. C. W. Still, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington; Dr. Allen J. Smith, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The war organization of the National Research Council includes a division on Medicine and related sciences of which Dr. Richard M. Pearce, a member of the Council, is chairman. The committee on medical zoology is a section of this division.