

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE INFLUENCE OF PARASITISM ON
THE HOST¹

THE line of development within the field of zoological research has shown a distinct tendency within recent years to move in the direction of biological study, to view the organism as a living thing and to seek an explanation for the various problems of life which present themselves in connection with it. One of the earliest phases of biological study found its origin in the condition presented by parasitism. The class of Helminthes, or intestinal worms, of the earliest authors, was seen early in the course of morphological study to be unwarranted as a systematic grouping. The animals included under the term were not those which were in any genetic sense related to each other. Like the earlier designations of land animals and water animals, these forms were grouped together by virtue of similarity in conditions of existence. The term is accordingly a biological one and its purely biological significance was stoutly maintained as early as 1827, by the great embryologist, Carl Ernst von Baer, and by F. S. Leuckart. The idea received finally due acceptance through the efforts of Carl Vogt, who dissociated the earlier group and united its subdivisions with those free living animals to which they were most closely morphologically con-

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section F—Zoology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York meeting, December, 1906.