

pointment of Mr. Frederick Soddy, formerly lecturer in physical chemistry and radio-activity, in the University of Glasgow; Professor Theodore Shennan, pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and lecturer in the university will succeed Professor George Dean in the chair of pathology.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### MINUTE ANIMAL PARASITES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: We have to thank you for inserting a review of our book, "Some Minute Animal Parasites" in your issue of July 17, pp. 105-107, and now ask the favor of your columns for the purpose of correcting certain inaccuracies contained therein. Unfortunately, the reviewer has made rather numerous inferences not to be found or suggested in the original, and seems to have mistaken an account of life-histories of certain parasitic Protozoa for a text-book of the type dear to the systematist. Both space and time prevent us doing more than indicate a few of the lapses from accuracy in the review, but mention of certain of these is essential.

The review states:

1. The fourth chapter deals with the spirochætes in a manner "which shall be as non-controversial as possible, and which will consist of facts and not the speculations so fashionable nowadays." The authors adhere so consistently to this promise that the reader would never know from the text that thousands of others have worked with these organisms.

Excluding the hyperbole regarding the thousands of workers on the subject, we quote in that chapter the works of Balfour, Blaizot, Blanc, Breinl, Certes, Conseil, Doflein, Dutton, Ehrenberg, Hindle, Leishman, Markham, Carter, Moebius, Nicolle, Perrin, Prowazek, Schaudinn, Todd, Zuelzer and ourselves, and give the opinions of other investigators also.

2. He would also look in vain for a description of the spirochæte of syphilis.

A reference to p. 86 not only gives the correct name of the organism (*Treponema pallidum*), but at least ten lines of special statement regarding it. There is also an entry in the index on p. 318.

3. The sixth chapter, dealing with coccidiosis . . . omits even a reference to coccidiosis in man.

It is regrettable that p. 117 was not noticed, for it is there stated that

The human parasite is possibly the same as that which infests rabbits, and there is the likelihood that the eating of the livers of rabbits suffering from coccidiosis has resulted in its transference with fatal results to the human host.

There is further reference to *Eimeria stiedæ* on pp. 139-140 of the book.

4. Regarding classification, the book was never intended to be a text-book for systematists and we state definitely on p. 18 that we "select material presenting as much variation as possible . . . without reference to strict schemes of classification." There is no need, then, for adherence to taxonomy. The suggested arrangement by systematic treatment according to mode of infection is impracticable because of lack of detailed knowledge in many cases. However, the principal known modes of infection among the Protozoa, with examples, are given in the first chapter of the book, on pp. 4-10.

The ungenerous concluding remark in the review, is, we feel, best ignored. We have already mentioned in this letter the numerous authors to whose work reference is made in Chapter IV., and a similar condition obtains elsewhere. We can only say that we have endeavored to do justice to all so far as the limits of a book of this kind would allow. This fact has received outside recognition generally, and we may quote the opinion expressed in the well-known English journal *The Lancet*, June 27, 1914, p. 1819, where it is stated that

We may note that everywhere the authors of the book under review are careful to give honor where honor is due.

In conclusion, we may add that we endeavored to appeal not only to students of science, but also to the class of educated persons whom the technicalities and terminology of the systematist have hitherto repelled.

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