

pressure figures. It is enough that such people regard their "nerves" and intimacies of metabolism as topics of general conversational interest. Freedom from anxiety, business, domestic and personal, is therapeutically most important for the subject of the hypertension which requires treatment. Patients who brood over their own blood-pressure figures, or the fact that their doctor has told them that they "suffer from high blood pressure," are very prone to become the subjects of a vicious circle in which the processes revolve the faster the more introspective the patient becomes.

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A NOTE ON  
HETEROPHYES NOCENS

AS A DISTINCT SPECIES OF TREMATODE PARASITE.  
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In the *Journal of Parasitology* for December, 1921, Cort and Yokogawa drew attention to *Heterophyes nocens*, Onji and Nishio, 1915, inhabiting the middle third of the small intestine of man, and whose ova were found in the stools of 31 out of 168 persons dwelling in two villages in the Yakaguchi Province of Japan. Its distinction from the Egyptian *Heterophyes heterophyes* was based upon the differences, mainly in measurements, found in the first two columns of the accompanying table. The original table was accompanied by the comment, "An examination of the table shows that these two species are distinct."

Table of Measurements of *Heterophyes*.

	As cited by Cort and Yokogawa.		As observed by Lane.
	<i>H. heterophyes</i> .	<i>H. nocens</i> .	<i>H. heterophyes</i> .
Length .. .. .	1-1.7	0.9-1.1	1.05-2.7
Width .. .. .	0.3-0.6	0.4-0.52	0.5-0.7
Spines .. .. .	With serrated posterior margins.	Without serrated posterior margins.	
Oral sucker, diameter	0.09	0.08	0.09-0.11
Acetabulum, " "	0.23	0.2-0.22	0.22-0.37
"Genital sucker," diameter .. .. .	0.15	0.1-0.13	0.17-0.27
Rodlets on genital sucker, number ..	70 to 80	About 60	61-74
Ova .. .. .	30 x 17	28 x 15.5	22-26 x 14-16

All the measurements are in millimetres, except for the ova, where micro-millimetres are implied.

In criticism it may be noted that the measurements are those of muscular organs, or of the body as a whole which is itself to a considerable extent a muscular structure, and that the degree of muscular contraction must and does materially alter the shape and size of both; that apart from this the upper and lower limits of the measurements in several cases overlap; that in trematodes the spines may vary in shape and size in different parts of the body, as Ward and Hirsch have convincingly shown for *Paragonimus westermanii*, the lung fluke of man; and that as regards the intestinal cæca the illustrations of Cort and Yokogawa indicate that in artificial infections, which it is claimed to have been effected, the intestinal cæca in flukes two days after infection are equal in length. On these grounds I have placed *Heterophyes nocens* as a synonym of *Heterophyes heterophyes*, in Vol. III. of Byam and Archibald's "Practice of Medicine in the Tropics," now in the press.

The next step taken in the matter was that of Leiper in a brief helminthological review in the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* for June, 1922. Comment-

ing on the new species he notes, "A re-examination of material from the Chinese and Japanese cases, with specimens collected in Egypt, does not reveal any constant specific differences." This does not seem to advance matters, since there might presumably be two species of *Heterophyes* parasitising man in Japan, the presence of one only of which, in the laboratories of the London School of Tropical Medicine, has no obvious bearing on the matter.

Since these happenings I have been fortunate enough to obtain material passed by a Japanese after the exhibition of 60 gr. of thymol. These flukes varied greatly in length, particularly in the degree to which the mobile pre-acetabular portion of the body was extended. The essentials of their description are contained in the third column of the accompanying table. It has been mentioned above that the supposed specific differences in the case under consideration rest mainly upon measurements affected by muscular action. These could only conceivably be the basis of accurate comparison, could one be satisfied that in either case the muscles concerned were contracted to the same degree. Obviously this is impossible. The last column illustrates the fact, well known but little appreciated, that the state of relaxation is extraordinarily variable, and that the limits of size, maximum and minimum, are altered accordingly, and to so considerable an extent, that to rely upon them as constituting specific differences seems perhaps as reasonable as it would be to classify sparrows specifically according to the extent to which their wings remain spread in rigor mortis.

The number of rodlets on the genital sucker is clearly variable, and if measurements suggest anything, it is that they may increase in number with growth. In any case one has constantly to decide whether one will consider a branched rodlet as two or one. Since the symmetry or otherwise of the intestinal cæcal terminations varies with the age of the fluke, if the illustrations of Cort and Yokogawa are to be accepted, they quite possibly vary in the adult under the influence of other factors, and can hardly be accepted as being of specific value. There remains the shape of the posterior margin of the very minute cuticular spines on which the writer expresses no opinion other than that were he able to detect it, he would still require proof of its constancy before admitting that it could be of value as influencing at all the question of specific difference.

The new evidence affords no grounds for revision of the judgment that the name *Heterophyes nocens* must lapse as a synonym of *Heterophyes heterophyes*, and human helminthology be correspondingly simplified.

PRIAPISM

COMPLICATING MYELOGENOUS LEUKÆMIA AND NOTED AS THE FIRST SYMPTOM.

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ALTHOUGH priapism is so well-recognised a complication of myelogenous leukæmia that von Leube has laid stress upon its diagnostic value, yet there are few cases of it on record in the literature. Indeed, although the condition is mentioned by the writers on leukæmia in the "Systems of Medicine," compiled by Allbutt and Rolleston and Osler and McCrae, yet neither of them had seen a case. In 1880 Peabody collected 32 cases of persistent priapism not connected with lesions of the central nervous system; and of these only seven were definitely connected with leucocythæmia. To this number, he suggests, one or two of the cases recorded before the Virchow-Bennett controversy of 1845 should possibly be added. Blum in 1906 read an interesting paper on the subject in Vienna and discussed its ætiology. He collected 70 cases of priapism, of which 15, including his own case, were due to leukæmia. Scheuer in 1911 made a very comprehensive survey of the condition, and gave a