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The American Association for the
Advancement of Science
The Influence of Parasitism on
the Host

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 bio-
ological one and its purely biological signifi-
cance 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, De-
cember, 1906.
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