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PRESENT LINES OF ATTACK ON
ANIMAL PARASITOLOGY

In treating the subject suggested by the secretary
of this section, it is my desire to follow out his sug-
gestion by discussing some of the general problems at
present being attacked in the field of animal parasit-
ology in order to point out if I can what measure of
success is being achieved in each field and what ap-
ppears to be immediately in sight for future consider-
ation. Evidently within the limits of such an address
only general statements can be made and details must
be cited sparingly if at all. Animal parasitology has
developed more in the last decade than in the entire
previous period of recorded science, and the contrast
in America is even more striking than in Europe.

Before taking up the general discussion, I wish to
deal with a particular item that was included in the
duty laid upon me. In common with many other
speakers on this occasion which marks the seventy-
fifth anniversary of the organization of the American
Association for the Advancement of Science, I was
asked to review briefly the work done on this topic of
animal parasites, under the auspices of the associa-
tion. I have elsewhere commented on the fact that
when about 1845 the distinguished naturalist Dr.
Joseph Leidy, founder of American parasitology,
began to study and write on animal parasites, he en-
tered upon virgin territory, for no work had been
done previously on that subject in America, and for
many years he worked alone. The start of his studies
was roughly coincident with the founding of the asso-
ciation. Leidy's work was done in Philadelphia, and
he does not appear as a contributor on this theme to
the printed volumes of the association. In all the
eyears these volumes contain only four papers on
parasitology, and but one of these was more than
trivial, viz., that by Weinland on "Human cestodes
new to science"; this paper outlined his well-known
book with the same title, published a little later in
the year.

Between 1885 and 1890 a number of important
studies on insect parasites and parasitism were pre-
sented at meetings of the association. Especial men-
tion should be made here of the work by C. V. Riley,
who was evidently a leader and inspirer of the group
of workers. Beginning in 1892 came a series of
papers on helminthology, slowly but steadily increas-

1 Read before Section N, at the Cincinnati meeting on
December 29, 1923.