The title of my address this evening was called for by our secretary eight months ago; this made it necessary for me to select a title broad enough to cover anything I might wish to say. I was quite certain at the time that I would talk about parasites. I might equally well have chosen the title "How the Neglected Half Live" instead of "How the Other Half Live," since very few zoologists seem to realize what a large part of the animal kingdom consists of parasites. Those of us who have selected parasitology as a field of research know that every species of animal that has been studied carefully harbors within it one or more species of parasites. Man, for example, is known to be parasitized by about 25 different species of protozoa, 85 different species of worms and an unknown number of different species of arthropods, the exact number depending on one's definition of a parasite. Many of these parasites appear to exist only in man. A similar condition prevails among domesticated animals and common wild animals and also among certain species of parasites. Hence it would appear that there are at least as many species of animal parasites as there are species of animal hosts for them to live in.

The number of individuals belonging to various species of parasites is astounding. The number of ciliates in the stomach of a cow, or cecum of a horse, the number of flagellates in the cecum of a guinea-pig, the number of malaria parasites in the blood of a human being suffering from malaria, and the number of amoebae in a dysentery patient mounts into the billions.

Parasites have attracted more attention in recent...
Editor's Summary

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