SOME MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF AMEBIASIS

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INTRODUCTION

In 1875 a Russian physician, F. Lôsch, first observed and described the active stage of *Endamoeba histolytica* in the dysenteric stools of a patient, and at necropsy found motile amebae in material obtained from ulcers of the colon. Moreover, he succeeded in infecting one of four dogs inoculated with amebae present in the bloody-mucous exudate of the patient. Yet Lôsch failed to appreciate the role which his "Amoeba coli" played in the disease with which it was associated. The studies of Koch\(^1\) and of Kartulis\(^1\) in Egypt, of Hlava\(^2\) in Prague, of Osler,\(^3\) Stengel,\(^4\) Musser\(^5\) and Dock\(^6\) in the United States provided uncontestable evidence that the ameba discharged in dysenteric stools was causally related to amebic colitis, while Quincke and Roos,\(^7\) Huber\(^8\) and Schaudinn\(^9\) demonstrated a cystic stage of the parasite. Meanwhile Councilman and Lafleur\(^10\) had provided a basic pathological study of amebiasis and in 1913 Walker and Sellards demonstrated experimentally in human volunteers in the Philippines that the disease was produced by feeding cysts of *Endamoeba histolytica*, while infection without disease resulted from feeding cysts of *Endamoeba coli*. By 1924

\(^1\) Alvarenga Prize Lecture of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, delivered on October 13, 1943.


\(^5\) Wm. Osler, Johns Hopkins Hosp. Reports, 1: 53–54, 1890.


\(^7\) J. H. Musser, Univ. Med. Mag., Phila. 9 pp., 1890.

\(^8\) G. Dock, Med. Record, N. Y., 40: 7–8, 1891.


\(^10\) J. C. Huber, Deutsch. Med. Wochenschr., 29 (Belh.): 267, 1903.


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