SOME MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF AMEBIASIS

By Dr. ERNEST CARROLL FAUST
PROFESSOR OF PARASITOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

INTRODUCTION

In 1875 a Russian physician, F. Lősch, 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 Lősch failed to appreciate the role which his "Ameoba coli" played in the disease with which it was associated. The studies of Koch and of Kar- tulis in Egypt, of Hlava in Prague, of Osler, Stengel, Musser and Dock in the United States provided uncontestable evidence that the ameba discharged in dysenteric stools was causally related to amebic colitis, while Quincke and Roos, Huber and Schaudinn demonstrated a cystic stage of the parasite. Meanwhile Councilman and Lafleur 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

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