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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. Loshc, 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 Loshc failed to appreciate the role which his "Ameoba coli" played in the disease with which it was associated. The studies of Koch3 and of Kartulis and of Haave in Egypt, of Haave in Prague, of Osler,5

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, Huber10 and Schaudinn11 demonstrated a cystic stage of the parasite. Meanwhile Councilman and Leflo12 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.