

BERTIELLA STUDERI, A NATURAL TAPE-WORM PARASITE OF MONKEYS, IN A HINDU CHILD

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THE patient, a Hindu Brahmin male child, aged eight years, fairly well nourished, has been passing segments of a worm in his stools for the last ten months. At first the child passed these segments with almost every motion but at present he passes them only occasionally.

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Having achieved some success in keeping down the incidence of the stegomyia breeding in country craft by regular inspections, it was further decided to devise a way by which the mosquito could be prevented access to the drinking-water receptacles. Provision of a perforated metal cap or filter which can be fitted to the man-hole of the barrel was suggested and such a cap has been devised. Its dimensions are $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches square with a depth of 3 inches. It has a screw-down lid or edge which can be fitted to the opening of the water barrel or box. Into it fits a wooden cover or cork with a handle and chain serving to keep dust and dirt out when fixed. The cap serves as a filter to gross impurities, such as fibre, dust, grain, seeds, and vermin such as rats, cockroaches, ants, flies, etc., besides keeping off mosquitoes. It has a perforated mesh of holes $1/16$ inch in size. The water of a barrel fitted with one shows not only no mosquito larvæ, but is clearer and cleaner, containing less debris. The barrel has to be fitted with a draw-off tap at the bottom. This cap can be made in sizes and fitted to ordinary wooden water receptacles, either barrels or boxes, at present in use by the country craft. The suggestion for fitting new metal cisterns was considered difficult to put into practice, on account of the cost which would be heavy for the owner of this class of country boats who uses cheap wooden receptacles and to which he has been used for very many years, and this *via media* for preventing the stegomyia breeding in the craft was therefore devised. It is anticipated that the experiment of fitting these caps to the water receptacles will effectively prevent the breeding of mosquitoes in the native craft and eliminate the existing nuisance and menace to health.

I have to thank Sir G. Wiles, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., chairman, Bombay Port Trust, and Mr. G. E. Bennett, chief engineer and acting chairman, for rendering all help, and the latter for designing the cap, after whom it is named.

REFERENCE

Bana, F. D. (1936). A practical way of dealing with *Aedes aegypti* (*Stegomyia fasciata*) mosquito breeding in country craft. *Indian Med. Gaz.*, Vol. LXXI, p. 79. (Correspondence—p. 306.)

The only complaint is occasional griping round the umbilicus. The tongue is slightly coated and liver just palpable. The child had an attack of dysentery about one year back. The child lives in Barisal but came here only three months ago.

Stool examination reports

Naked-eye appearance.—Semi-solid, greyish, slightly offensive stool with live segments of a tape-worm present in it.

Reaction.—Acid.

Microscopic examination.—Some undigested food residue and vegetable cells, and a fair number of bacteria present.

Cysts of—(a) *Entamoeba histolytica* present—few only. (b) *Entamoeba coli* present—fair number.

Eggs of—(a) *Trichuris trichiura* present—very few only. (b) *Ascaris lumbricoides* present—numerous.

Segments.—These were identified as *Bertiella studeri*, a natural tape-worm of monkeys.

My thanks are due to my teachers, Dr. P. A. Maplestone, for identification of this tape-worm, and to Dr. B. M. Das Gupta for the report on the stool.

According to Maplestone and Riddle (1936) only eleven instances of this tape-worm in human beings have been hitherto reported so that this makes the twelfth.

REFERENCE

Maplestone, P. A., and Riddle, J. S. (1936). *Indian Med. Gaz.*, Vol. LXXI, p. 81.

THE HYDROGEN-ION CONCENTRATION OF CHOLERA STOOLS

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As far as we are aware there is no record in the literature of any determinations of the hydrogen-ion concentration of the characteristic 'rice-water' cholera stools. In the present report the results of a single examination of the stools of 150 patients during the acute stage of the disease are given and in addition the daily reactions of the stools in a series of thirty cholera patients.

The stool was collected by a sterile catheter into a test-tube and the hydrogen-ion concentration estimated soon after the collection of the sample. The determination was completed within 30 minutes of the collection. A Hellige comparator with a non-fading standard colour disc and 13 mm. rectangular troughs was used for the estimation of the pH values. The indicators employed were methyl red (pH 4.4 to 6.0), brom-thymol blue (pH 6.0 to 7.6), phenol red (pH 6.8 to 8.4) and thymol blue (pH 8.0 to 9.6). The samples examined were