## VII. PSEUDO-PARASITES (Myiasis).

Of these, the most important are the larvæ of certain diptera, particularly the flesh flies—creophila. The condition is called myiasis.

The most common form is that in which an external wound becomes living, as it is called. This myiasis vulnerum is caused by the larvæ of either the blue-bottle or the common flesh fly. The larvæ can be removed readily with the forceps; if there is any difficulty, thorough cleansing and the application of an antiseptic bandage is sufficient to kill them. The ova of these flies may be deposited in the nostrils, the ears, or the conjunctiva—the myiasis narium, aurium, conjunctivæ. This invasion rarely takes place unless these regions are the seat of disease. In the nose and in the ear the larvæ may cause serious inflammation.

The cutaneous myiasis may be caused by the larvæ of the musca vomitoria, but more commonly by the bot-flies of the ox and sheep, which occasionally attack man. This condition is rare in temperate climates. Matas has described a case in which cestrus larvæ were found in the gluteal region. In parts of Central America the eggs of another bot-fly, the dermatobia, are not infrequently deposited in the skin and produce a swelling very like the ordinary boil.

Myiasis interna may result from the swallowing of the larvæ of the common house fly or of species of the genus anthomyia. There are many cases on record in which the larvæ of the musca domestica have been discharged by vomiting. Instances in which dipterous larvæ have been passed in the fæces are less common. Finlayson, of Glasgow, has recently reported an interesting case in a physician, who, after protracted constipation and pain in the back and sides, passed large numbers of the larvæ of the flower fly-anthomyia canicularis. Among other forms of larvæ or gentles, as they are sometimes called, which have been found in the fæces are those of the common house fly, the blue-bottle fly, and the techomyza fusca. The larvæ of other insects are extremely rare. It is stated that the caterpillar of the tabby moth has been found in the fæces.

Here may be mentioned among the effects of insects the remarkable urticaria epidemica, which is caused in some districts by the procession caterpillars, particularly the species cnethocampa. There are districts in the Kahlberger Schweiz which have been rendered almost uninhabitable by the irritative skin eruptions caused by the presence of these insects, the action of which is not necessarily in consequence of actual contact with them.

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