

Bhatia and Gulati in the Punjab have contributed to our knowledge of these parasites.

Parasites and commensals from Mollusca include a species of *Nyctotherus*, a species of *Balantidium*, 3 species of *Conchophthirus*, and 3 species of *Anoplophrya*. Species of *Nyctotherus* and *Balantidium* are also known from the Cockroach and certain other Arthropods. Species of *Anoplophrya* and *Maupasella* are known from the fresh-water Oligochaete *Aelosoma* and from 2 species of the earthworm *Pheretima*. And lastly, Protozoa are known to parasitize other Protozoa, and a suctorian *Sphaerophrya* sp. has been recorded from *Paramecium caudatum*.

Some of the ciliate parasites are very interesting from the morphological point of view. The holotrichan *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* which is parasitic in the skin of fish, the various ciliates which occur in the caecum of the horse; *Trichodina* which slowly creeps over the external surface of *Hydra* and is also found on the skin of fish; *Spirochona* known to occur on the gills of fresh-water crustacea, and *Licnophora* which is an ectoparasite of various marine animals, should all be looked for by those who have an opportunity to do so, and will very likely be found.

In conclusion, we will say a few words about the regional distribution of the ciliates that have been recorded so far from various parts of India. Following the regional divisions of India as adopted by Stephenson in his volume on Oligochaeta in the fauna of British India, the records are as follows:—

1. North-Western Territory (The drainage system of the Indus so far as comprised

in the plains of India, including the Punjab, the N.W.F.P., N. Rajputana and Sind). 85 species belonging to 50 genera.

2. Western Himalayan Region (from Hazara to borders of Nepal, including Kashmir). 27 species belonging to 18 genera.
3. North-Eastern Frontier Region (Nepal and eastwards, including Assam). 8 species belonging to 7 genera.
4. Indo-Gangetic Plain (U. P., Bihar and Bengal). 74 species belonging to 39 genera.
5. Burma (including the Andamans and Nicobars). 4 species belonging to 3 genera.
6. Main Peninsular Area (including S. Rajputana and the Central India Agency). 17 species belonging to 12 genera.
7. Southern Region (S. of latitude 15°). 80 species belonging to 31 genera, which record includes 40 species from the stomach of the ox.
8. Western Region (Goa to Cutch, the Ghats to the Sea). 30 species belonging to 26 genera.
9. Ceylon—60 species belonging to 19 genera, which record includes 41 species from the stomach of the ox.

In the present state of our knowledge, no importance can be attached to the presence or absence of any species in the specified regions. Larger number of species as recorded from certain regions is simply due to the fact that these regions have been better worked out. Further work will doubtless show the all-India distribution of most of the species.

### Mining and Geological Institute of India.

THE annual general meeting of the Mining and Geological Institute of India was held on 1st February 1935 at Calcutta. In his presidential address W. H. Bates (of Burn and Co.) has surveyed the growth and development of coal trade in Bihar and Orissa for the last 30 years. In his opinion the slump in coal market is not merely due to the world-wide trade depression, but to other local causes; and he considers that the future is not so gloomy as many would like us to believe, especially in view of the possible

shortage of oil and other combustible products. The meeting was followed by the Annual Dinner with the Governor of Bengal as the chief guest. Interesting excursions were arranged to several places like Bokaro colliery, *Statesman* offices, etc. The most important work published in the *Transactions* of the year was Dr. Heron's paper on the mineral resources of Rajputana for which the author was rightly awarded the Government of India prize of Rs. 500 and a gold medal.