

**BLOOD EXAMINATION
AND ITS VALUE IN
TROPICAL DISEASE**

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Blood Examination and Its Value in Tropical Disease by Claud F. Fothergill

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WITH A PREFACE

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1907

PREFACE

MR FOTHERGILL has asked me to write a short preface for his useful little work. Every year the importance of blood examination in connection with disease is increasing; and this is especially the case with Tropical Diseases. In malaria, filariasis, kala-azar, sleeping sickness, relapsing fever, and tick fever, the detection of parasites gives at once a definite diagnosis and a sure guide to treatment. Various serum-reactions are not less valuable; and blood counts are frequently of great assistance.

With regard to the last named, caution must always be urged as regards the "error of random sampling"—the number of corpuscles examined must be sufficiently large. It is to be hoped that the mathematicians will shortly tell us how many leucocytes, for instance, must be studied in making a differential leucocyte count, in order that the error shall be below any given percentage; but at present this point is not sufficiently considered; and we actually hear of differential counts being

made on a study of only 250, or even of 100, leucocytes. The safest rule to adopt is for the observer always to state the total number of cells examined by him, and never to content himself with giving the mere percentage.

Illustrative cases are a useful feature of Mr Fothergill's tract; and the whole work will, I think, be of assistance and interest to medical men in the Tropics.

RONALD ROSS.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

IN bringing this small work before the public, I lay no claim to originality, but trust that it may be of use to medical men in the Tropics, and others brought into contact with patients suffering from disease acquired abroad.

I have endeavoured to point out that the examination of the blood may be of the utmost importance in the correct diagnosis of Tropical Disease, and with this object in view I have quoted a number of cases, which, I think, will bear careful perusal, for in almost each case was the diagnosis arrived at through blood examination. I hope also that the reference made to malaria and its differential diagnosis may prove of real value, for its forms of onset are so varied, whilst its blood "picture" is so characteristic.

CLAUD F. FOTHERGILL.

BEECH HOLM,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

1st July 1907.

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