



Fig. 1. Multiplication of T2 phage. ●—●, in *E. coli* B cells; ■—■, in 'protoplasts'; ×—×, in lysed 'protoplasts'

be explained, as penicillin is supposed to inhibit only the synthesis of the mucocomplex component⁵⁻⁷ responsible for the rigidity and the actual morphology of the cell wall⁸.

We are inclined to think, on the basis of our observations, that certain cell preparations of McQuillen⁹ may also have had more or less cell-wall components on their surface.

When accepting the proposed definition for protoplasts¹⁰, the spherical particles obtained from *E. coli* B by penicillin treatment can scarcely be considered as typical, since they are sensitive to T2 phage infection, that is, they seem to have the appropriate receptors undamaged on their surfaces.

G. DÉNES
L. POLGÁR

Institute of Medical Chemistry,
University of Budapest. Oct. 21.

- ¹ Lederberg, J., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, **42**, 574 (1956).
- ² Monod, J., and Wollmann, E., *Ann. Inst. Pasteur*, **73**, 937 (1947).
- ³ De Mars, R. I., *Virology*, **1**, 83 (1955).
- ⁴ Weidel, W., Koch, G., and Lohss, F., *Z. Naturforsch.*, **9b**, 398 (1954).
- ⁵ Park, J. T., and Strominger, J. L., *Science*, **125**, 99 (1957).
- ⁶ Lederberg, J., *J. Bact.*, **73**, 144 (1957).
- ⁷ Salton, M. R. J., and Shafa, F., *Nature*, **181**, 1321 (1958).
- ⁸ Work, E., *Nature*, **179**, 841 (1957).
- ⁹ McQuillen, K., *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **27**, 410 (1958).
- ¹⁰ Brenner, S., et al., *Nature*, **181**, 1713 (1958).

The Inferior Mesenteric Ganglion in Man

THE inferior mesenteric ganglion has been studied in the cat by A. J. Harris¹ and in the rabbit by G. Brown and J. E. Pascoe²; but in man, however, no full description of the anatomy of the ganglion itself has yet appeared.

A series of 19 stillbirths and neonatal infants, ranging from 7½ months to full term, were dissected after having been injected with embalming fluid through the umbilical vein.

The inferior mesenteric plexus was easily found by tracing down the intermesenteric nerves to their junction with it. The plexus was then dissected very carefully under a powerful lens, the nerves being teased away with a fine dissecting needle until a solid white structure, the inferior mesenteric ganglion, was isolated. In each specimen one or two ganglia were found, variable in size, and although some were small they all could easily be seen with the naked eye. They were in close proximity to the inferior mesenteric artery, being placed on either its left or right side. In three specimens two separate ganglia were found receiving nerves from their respective sides. Branches from the left ganglion tend to run to the distal part of the transverse colon, descending colon and upper part of the pelvic colon; while those from the right one accompanied the parent artery into the pelvic mesocolon to innervate the lower part of the sigmoid colon and upper part of the rectum.

The inferior mesenteric ganglion is a well-defined body capable of isolation and may be said to be a constant structure in man. It is an important relay station in the nerves to the distal part of the large intestine.

Further details of this work will be presented for publication at a later date.

J. A. SOUTHAM

Department of Anatomy,
University of Manchester.
Dec. 7.

¹ Harris, A. J., *J. Comp. Neurol.*, **79**, 1 (1943).

² Brown, G., and Pascoe, J. E., *J. Physiol.*, **118**, 113 (1952).

A New Leech-infesting Cercaria from Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh

Valvata piscinalis, a common snail in the Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, was found infected with a new furcocercous cercaria. Of 758 snails examined, 19 were found infected. This cercaria, which is named *Cercaria valvatae* n.sp., develops in long tubular sporocysts forming a tangled mass in the hepatopancreas of the snail. With the proliferation of the germ balls the tubular sporocyst becomes constricted into sausage-shaped swellings containing developing cercariae. The abbreviated specific diagnosis of *Cercaria valvatae* n.sp. (Fig. 1) is as follows.

Body, oval without eye-spots, 0.18–0.22 mm. long and 0.084 mm.–0.1 mm. broad. Anterior end beset with transverse rows of minute spines. Oral organ protrusible, 0.036 mm. × 0.025 mm. to 0.045 mm. × 0.03 mm.; divisible into two parts, anterior part thin, posterior part muscular. Ventral sucker equatorial or post-equatorial, highly muscular, protrusible, 0.027 mm. × 0.025 mm. to 0.03 mm. × 0.028 mm. Prepharynx small, pharynx globular, 0.014 mm. diameter, oesophagus 0.03 mm. long. Intestinal caeca extend slightly posterior to the ventral sucker. Penetration glands 3 pairs, bilobed, granular, posterior to ventral sucker, opening by long ducts at the base of oral organ. Excretory bladder, ovoid; flame cells six pairs, five in the body and one in the tail stem. Tail stem 0.16–0.23 mm. long. Caudal furci 0.19 mm.–0.21 mm. long, not provided with fin or membrane.

Of the furcocercous cercariae described from Great Britain this cercaria comes nearest to *Cercaria F*₁¹, *Cercaria Y*², *Cercaria micromorpha*³ and *Cercaria pygocytophora*⁴, but differs from these in the number of either the penetration glands or the flame cells.