

S. Hemblington College, Queen's Road, Darton
London N.E.
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My dear Sir,

You would doubtless receive last week a copy of Mr Rainey's paper on *Cysticercus*, which would interest you. I had not time then to write, owing to pressure of business. That would partly answer your question as to the article on "Diseases of the Public Health" in the Brit. & For. Rev. It is rather strange no notice should have been taken of it by the author of the article, since a very inferior production on the same subject (Mr Fleming's) is noticed. Mr Fleming was employed along with the late Professor Wm Smith of York to report on the subject — a very poor paper as it was sent to the Microscopical Journal months after Mr Rainey's communication had been read to the Royal Society — it contained several grave errors, considering for instance the calcareous particles found in the neck as "assimilating cellulose"! and stating that

they had not found the ystereans after prolonged search in any earlier stage, and therefore it certainly could not have been present in such!!! when had they gone the right way to work they would have found it in earlier stages in myriads! Hence the Editorial conclusions on the subject of diseased meat will be received with much hesitation and should be interested in hearing your opinion.

I am greatly pleased to hear of your continued researches on Fish scales, and regret much you should have missed seeing Prof. Williamson; he is a most pleasant man, so far as I can form a judgment from letters occasionally passing between us. I have one of the parts of the Phil. Trans. containing a communication from him on the subject and am trying to get the other - what he says you shall know as soon as I can find a little time to communicate it. I'm sorry I'm still unable to put the finishing

strokes to the drawings of your specimens already sent, but have no doubt of being able to soon. In the meantime anything sent for me to my brother, Mr Wm West, 57 Hatton Garden, will find me all right. The Beryx scale last sent makes a fine figure, entire on a small scale, with some parts more highly magnified. There are bone lacunae in parts. You remark on the very thing that has puzzled myself much, the apparent absence of bone lacunae in recent cycloid teleostoid scales, though present in fossil. You know how delicate these are, how proportionately delicate the bone structure of present must be - therefore easily ^{optical appearance,} obliterated - has it occurred to you to try entire removal of the grease invariably I believe present, with ether, perhaps the best, potash or soda. I once thought I saw traces in furrow scales, of such a structure, but have had no time to try the plan I suggest. You are aware of the

Calcareous plates present in one section
at least of the Cycloid scales, to which the
cod, Haddock, Eel, belong. Bone structure
could hardly coexist with these.

Have Agassin's proposed divisions ever been
thoroughly worked out, so as to ascertain
their true value? I have been told by a
friend that scales of two of his great divisions
have been found together on some fish, but
have not succeeded in learning more about
it. I am at a loss in which to class some
scales, Yarrell does not help as thought
he did. The spout herring are I believe
universally called Cycloid, yet they seem
to me to come nearer to stenoid in their
structure as important it than to cycloid.

Remain &c

Yours very sincerely
Luffen West.

J. B. Kouss.