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A LOUSE FEEDING ON THE BLOOD OF ITS HOST

THAT any Mallophagan can actively remove blood from its host and thus warrant consideration as a possible vector or intermediate host of organisms causing avian disease has been extensively denied.

This writer, while recently studying poultry lice at Cornell University, observed individuals of *Menopon stramineum* Nitzsch. running about on the skin of a white fowl and showing a pigmented substance in the crop, indicative of blood. That this was not obtained from clots from accidental injuries to the host was strongly suggested by the finding of an individual, showing blood in the alimentary tract, with mandibles deeply sunken in the quill of a young feather from which the dermal papilla, bearing blood vessels, had not yet withdrawn. On the removal of the louse blood flowed from the wound. The injury appeared as if two holes, one for each mandible, had been pierced in the quill and then the partition separating them cut out. Examination of the quill showed many scars of the same type of wound as the one from which the louse had been removed. The unfolding barbs showed still older scars, suggesting that this type of feeding was habitual. The louse and feather were removed and preserved.

Similar observations by others working with poultry lice are awaited with interest.

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