

Basil Danilewsky 1852-1939 / [Cecil Arthur Hoare].

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BASIL DANILEWSKY
1852-1939.
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BASIL DANILEWSKY

1852-1939.

Professor BASIL DANILEWSKY died on February 25th, 1939. At the time of his death he was the oldest surviving Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, his association with this Society dating from its foundation in 1907.

DANILEWSKY was born in Kharkov, Russia, in 1852. At the age of 16 he completed his secondary education and entered the University of Kazan where he studied in the Physico-Mathematical Faculty for 2 years, after which he returned to his native town to continue his education in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kharkov. He graduated with honours in 1874, and in 1877 took the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was then attached to the Chair of Physiology with a stipend and sent by the University to Germany where he studied under some of the most eminent physiologists of the time.

On his return to Russia, in 1880, DANILEWSKY was appointed Lecturer (Docent) in physiology of domestic animals at the Kharkov Veterinary Institute. He soon became Professor, first in comparative physiology (1883) and later in human physiology (1886) at the University, which he left in 1910 to become Director and Professor of Physiology in the Kharkov Medical Institute for Women. From 1917 he resumed his lectures at the University, and in 1926 he organized and became the head of the Ukrainian Institute of Endocrinology and Organotherapy, in Kharkov, where he remained till his death.

The 65 years of DANILEWSKY's scientific and teaching career were devoted almost exclusively to physiology—to which he contributed more than one hundred papers—and he was regarded as the doyen of Russian physiologists.

However, in addition to his renown as physiologist, DANILEWSKY had won for himself a place in the history of tropical medicine and medical zoology for his

researches on the parasitology of the blood, in which he had been engaged for some years during the earlier period of his scientific activities (1884-1896), simultaneously with his physiological investigations. This work was devoted to the blood-inhabiting protozoa of man and lower vertebrates, mainly the sporozoa (Haemosporidia and allied groups) and trypanosomes. In undertaking the study of these sporozoa, especially in birds, DANILEWSKY fully realized their importance in the elucidation of various problems connected with the aetiology and pathology of human malaria. His best known publications, embodying his most important investigations on the blood parasites, are the two volumes entitled "*La parasitologie comparée du sang*," issued in 1889.

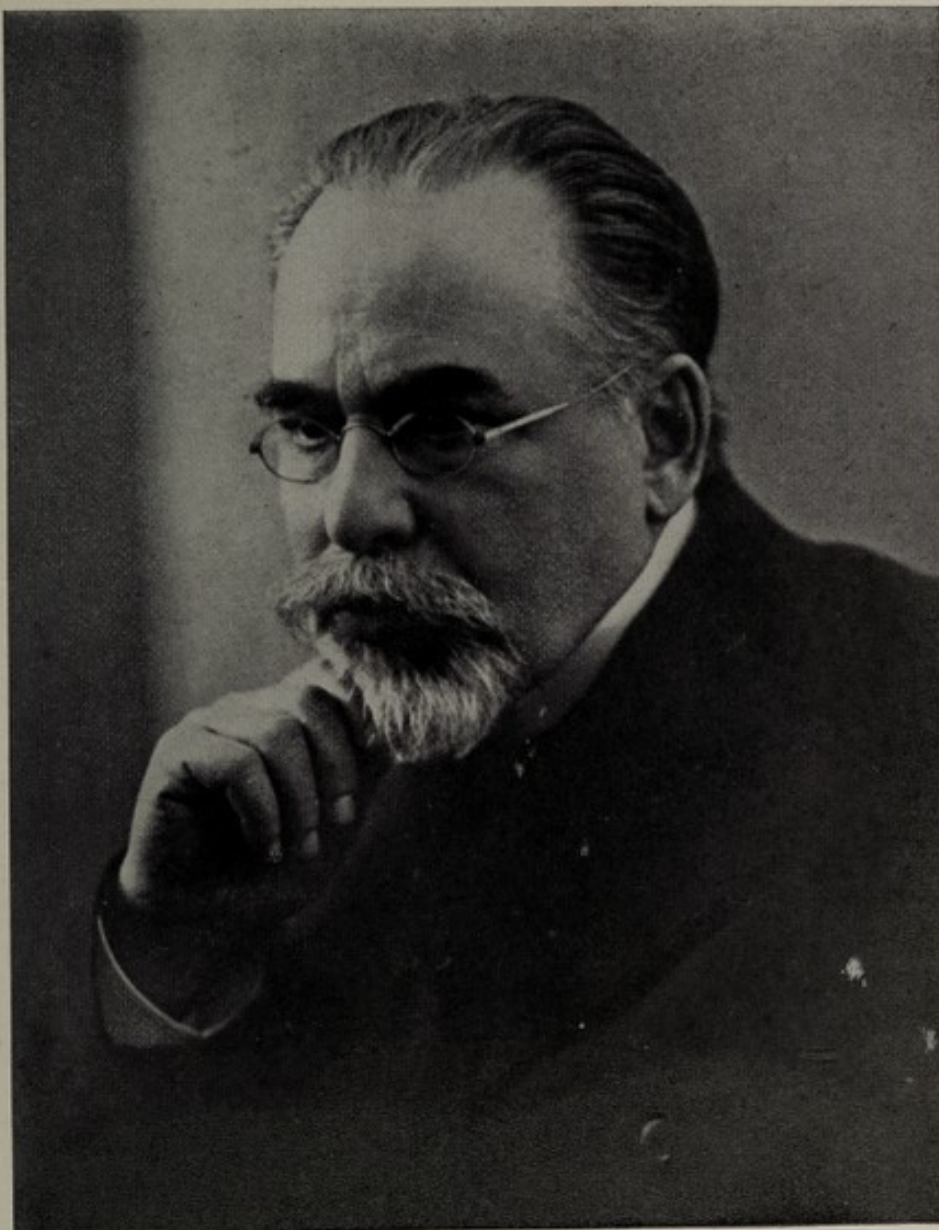
DANILEWSKY was the first to recognize the affinities between the human malarial parasites and the intracorpuseular sporozoa (his "Haemocytosozoa") of the lower vertebrates, which were united by him into an independent order, Haemosporidia. To him belongs the credit of discovering the haemogregarines and leucocytozoa, and he was the first to record the pigmented parasites (*Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium*) in birds. He gave a detailed account of the "exflagellation" of the male gametocyte in the last named two species and in *Leucocytozoon*, but interpreted it as an independent organism, under the name *Polymitus*. DANILEWSKY also carried out comparative observations on the trypanosomes of fishes, frogs, birds and rats. He made the first successful attempt to cultivate trypanosomes, having kept them under observation in capillary tubes—with a mixture of blood, saline and sodium carbonate—for periods up to 12 days. He demonstrated that the trypanosomes in culture change their appearance, assuming a herpetomonad-like form (his "*Trypanomonas*"). In the relatively brief period during which he was engaged in parasitological investigations DANILEWSKY made valuable and lasting contributions to our knowledge of the blood protozoa. His last paper on these organisms is dated 1896: after this he appears never to have returned to the subject. This complete abandonment of parasitology not infrequently provoked the question whether the physiologist of later years was actually the DANILEWSKY who had done such valuable pioneer work in this important field at the end of the nineteenth century.

DANILEWSKY received many honours both in his own country and abroad. He was Member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and Emeritus Professor in his own University, honorary member of many scientific societies, and a recipient of a number of prizes and medals, including the Mary Kingsley Medal bestowed upon him in 1907 by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Since no bibliography of DANILEWSKY's protozoological works appears to be available, a list of these—complete, so far as can be ascertained—is appended.

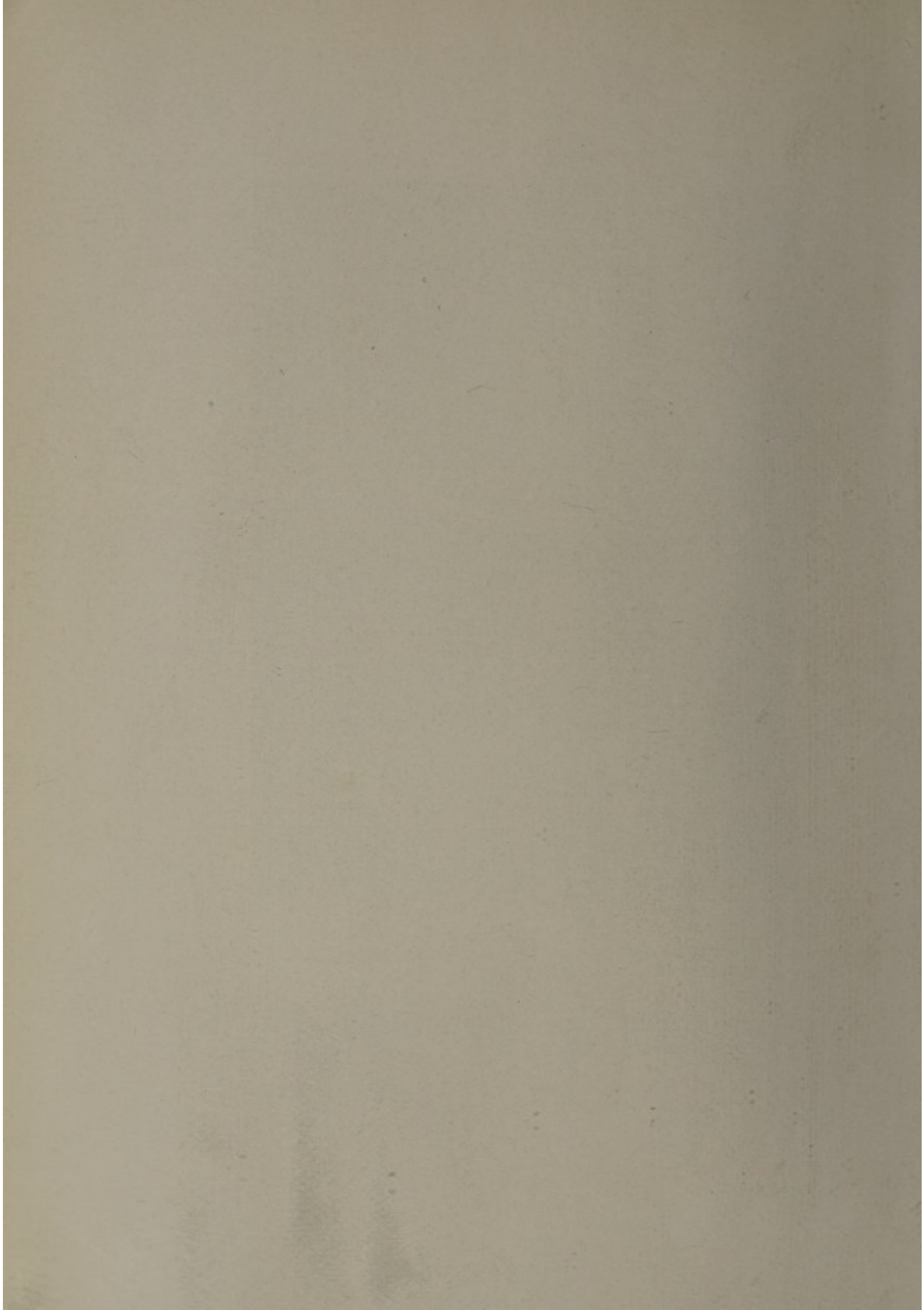
We are indebted to Professor BOGOMOLETZ, President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., for providing some of the biographical data, and to Professor D. KEILIN, F.R.S., of the Molteno Institute, Cambridge, for the accompanying portrait of DANILEWSKY.

C. A. HOARE.



B. Danilevsky

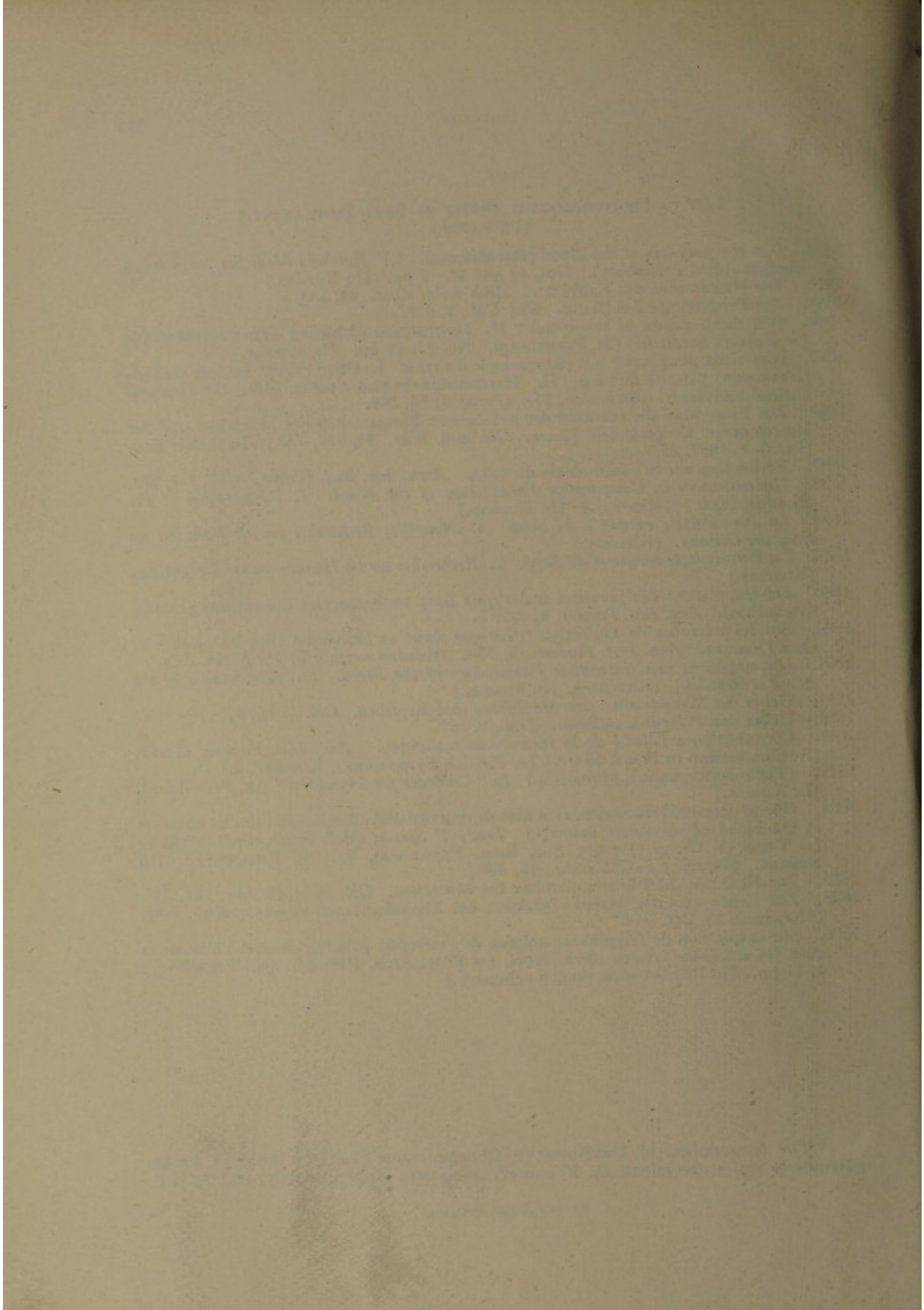
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LIST OF PROTOZOOLOGICAL PAPERS BY BASIL DANILEWSKY.*
(1884-1896.)

1884. [On the parasites of the blood (Haematozoa). I.] *Russkaja Medicina* [= Russian Medicine] (St. Petersburg). Nos. 46 and 48. 7 pp. [In Russian.]
1885. Die Hämatozoen der Kaltblüter. *Arch. mikr. Anat.* 24, 588.
1885. Zur Parasitologie des Blutes. *Biol. Cbl.*, 5, 529.
1886. [On the parasites of the blood II. Haematozoa of birds.] *Russkaja Medicina* [= Russian Medicine] (St. Petersburg). No. 15. 10 pp. [In Russian.]
1886. Matériaux pour servir à la parasitologie du sang. I. Observations sur une monade (*Hexamitus*) parasite du sang. II. Haematozoa chez les oiseaux. III. Les Hématozoaires des lézards. *Arch. slav. Biol.* (Paris), 1, 85, 364.
1886. Zur Frage über die Identität der pathogenen Blutparasiten des Menschen und der Haematozoen der gesunden Thiere. *Cbl. med. Wiss.* 24, 737, 753; *Arch. slav. Biol.* (Paris), 3, 1887, 257.
1887. Recherches sur la parasitologie du sang. *Arch. slav. Biol.* (Paris), 3, 33, 157, 370.
1888. [Investigations in Comparative Parasitology of the Blood. I. Zooparasites of the Blood in Birds.] (Kharkov.) [In Russian.]
1889. *La Parasitologie comparée du Sang*. 1. *Nouvelles Recherches sur les Parasites du Sang des Oiseaux.* (Kharkov.)
1889. *La Parasitologie comparée du Sang*. 2. *Recherches sur les Hématozoaires des Tortues.* (Kharkov.)
1890. Développement des parasites malariques dans les leucocytes des oiseaux (Leucocytozoaires). *Ann. Inst. Pasteur*, 4, 427.
1890. Sur les microbes de l'infection malarique aiguë et chronique chez les oiseaux et chez l'homme. *Ann. Inst. Pasteur*, 4, 753. (Russian version in *Vrač.* No. 47.)
1891. [Investigations in Comparative Parasitology of the Blood. II. Zooparasites of the Blood in Reptiles.] (Kharkov.) [In Russian.]
1891. Ueber die Myoparasiten der Amphibien und Reptilien. *Cbl. Bakt.*, 9, 9.
1891. Ueber den *Polymitus malariae*. *Ibid.*, 9, 397.
1891. Contribution à l'étude de la microbiose malarique. *Ann. Inst. Pasteur*, 5, 758. (Russian version in *Fiziol. Sbornik* [= Physiol. Symposium], Kharkov. 2.)
1892. [The microorganisms of malaria.] In "*Calendar for Physicians*" (St. Petersburg). [In Russian.]
1894. [Blood parasites (Haematozoa) in man during malarial infection and similar parasites in the blood of vertebrate animals.] *Trudy V Sjezda Obsč. Russk. Vrač. Pirogova* [= Trans. V Congr. Pirogov Soc. Russ. Physicians], 2. (St. Petersburg.) [In Russian. Summary in *Cbl. Bakt.*, 15, 480.]
1895. Zur Kenntnis der Malaria-mikroben bei Menschen. *Cbl. Bakt.* (I. Abt.), 18, 225.
1895. Zur Lehre von der Malaria-Infektion bei Menschen und Vögeln. *Arch. Hyg.* (München), 25, 227.
1896. Sur la question de l'hypothèse unitaire de l'infection paludéenne chez l'homme et chez les animaux. *Russk. Arch. Patol.* [= Russ. Arch. Pathol.]. (St. Petersburg.) 1, 11 pp. [In Russian with French summary.]

* The transcription of DANILEWSKY's Christian name (Vasilij = Basil) in foreign publications varies, the initials B., V. and W. being used indiscriminately.—(C. A. H.)





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