

**HOOKWORM DISEASE.**

**What It Is and How Caused, as Told by Those Who Know.**

This disease is caused by a small worm which lives in the small intestine or bowel.

The worm when full grown is about half an inch in length and as big around as a pin. It is of a dirty white color.

These worms lay eggs, which are too small to be seen by the naked eye. Under the microscope they may be seen. Each female worm may lay a thousand eggs in a day. They do not hatch in the bowel. These eggs pass out with the bowel movement and get on the ground. Here, in a week or two, one worm hatches out of each egg. In hot weather the worm may hatch out in one day. These young hookworms are called embryos. These little worms live in the dirt and grow for two or three days, then they shed their skin and grow for a few days more. They get ready to cast their skin again and in this stage they are called encysted embryos. Under the microscope they appear to be in a capsule. They are too small to be seen by the naked eye. In places where no privies are used or where no buckets are used to catch the excreta or bowel movements the ground is alive with these little worms. They cannot be seen but they are there nevertheless. They can be felt. Let any barefooted person walk on soil which is polluted, that is, contains bodily discharges, and in a few minutes there is a stinging sensation on the feet. Later, this gets worse and in a few hours' time the skin between the toes and on top of the foot is red and swollen. The itching is intense and the desire to scratch is irresistible. In other words, the little worms have burrowed through the skin and caused what we call ground itch, toe itch or dew poison. Ground itch occurs more often in rainy weather or after heavy dews. This is because the rain washes the excreta and the young worms a considerable distance from the privy or other places where the body waste is deposited. If these discharges do not get an the ground there will be no ground itch and no hookworm disease. For this reason we never have hookworm disease in cities where sewer systems are used or in country districts where sanitary privies are used.

Let us return to the little hookworms too small to be seen by the naked eye which had burrowed through the skin and caused ground itch. They get into the blood stream and pass to the lungs, from the lungs they crawl up the small air tubes until they reach the windpipe. We know that the upper opening of the windpipe (larynx) is close to the gullet (esophagus). It is easy to see, then, how these little worms can be coughed up from the windpipe and swallowed. They pass through the stomach to the first portion of the small bowel. Sometimes they are found in all parts of the bowel. It takes the worms two months or more to travel from the skin to the bowel. They cause no disease while taking the journey, but as soon as they reach the bowel they attach themselves by means of two pairs of lips to the lining of the bowel or mucous membrane and soon become full grown—that is, about a half inch long. Each worm has a small tooth, which is hollow like the needle of a hypodermic syringe. The worm takes hold of the bowel lining, which is pierced by this tooth. The little worm not only damages the bowel lining, but it also sucks blood and injects a poison (toxine) into the circulation. When it has exhausted the blood supply from one little spot, it turns loose and takes hold in another place.

Although these worms are very small, there are hundreds, sometimes thousands, of them in the bowel at a time, and this causes the patient to become very weak from the constant loss of blood and from the impaired digestion.

These worms, shortly after reaching the bowel, begin laying eggs, just as their parents did. These eggs do not hatch inside the body, but are expelled with the bowel movement and hatch out on the soil.

The worm will live in the bowel for eight or ten years unless the patient is treated. Every worm in the bowel has gone through the skin. Every time we have ground itch a little colony of hookworms has started for the bowel. Boys and girls all over the State and often men and women also go barefooted several months in the year and are seldom without ground itch.

**IS THE DISEASE COMMON?**

Dubini, an Italian physician, was the first to discover the hookworm in man. This was in 1854. In the mines in certain parts of Germany the disease played such havoc among the miners that no man with hookworm disease was allowed to work until the disease had been cured.

In America the first hookworm was discovered by Dr Stiles, of the United States Marine Hospital service, in 1902. When Dr Stiles made the announcement that many of the people throughout the South living in small towns and in the country districts were suffering with hookworm disease the papers treated the matter as a joke and even the physicians doubted that the disease was common. Now anyone who doubts that hookworm disease is the most serious problem confronting the people of the South, either has not investigated the matter or is not open to conviction.

**WHERE THE DISEASE IS FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The disease is found in all of the Southern States. It is not found in the northern part of the United States because of the cold climate. As a rule, the disease is more common on sandy soil. In our State the heaviest infection is in the lower counties, and it grows lighter as we go toward the northwestern part of the State.

As yet we have not been able to estimate the number of cases of hookworm disease in the State, but we do know that the disease is much more common than people think. Last winter 10,000 school children attending rural schools were examined and over 20% of them had hookworm disease. In the past few months about 10,000 cases of hookworm disease have been treated in this State.

**THE AGE LIMIT.**

There is no age limit. The disease is more common between the ages of five and fifteen, but it occurs in very young children and in very old persons. As soon as children get old enough to wear shoes all the year and thus prevent ground itch, they will gradually recover from the disease unless they are severely infected. It will be noticed that babies in the country are usually healthy. When they become large enough to run about and catch ground itch, they become pale and "puny" looking. They are pale or sallow and have indigestion and other disturbances.

**HOW THE DISEASE AFFECTS A PERSON**

The symptoms of the disease vary greatly. It may be so severe that we can make a diagnosis by glancing at the patient, or it may be so mild that the person appears healthy in every way. In these cases we must use the microscope to make a diagnosis. A small portion of the bowel movement is placed under the microscope. If the person has hookworm disease the eggs of the worm can be seen. The eggs of the round worm, the tape worm and other intestinal parasites can also be found. In a severe case of hookworm disease the child is usually small for his age. The face is often wrinkled, and appears too old for the body. There is a troubled or drawn expression about the mouth. The skin is usually yellow. It may have a deathly pallor or a waxy look. The patient complains of "shortness of breath", of pain in the stomach, or a heavy feeling as though he were carrying a weight in the stomach. He suffers from indigestion and "heart burn". Headache is common. The appetite is variable; at times the patient eats a great deal and again cares for nothing. Oftentimes he will have a fancy for clay, sand, chalk, soot and sawdust. We used to think that dirt eating caused hookworm disease. We had the cart before the horse. The disease causes

**Church Notes**

The public is cordially invited to attend any of the services of the various churches of Kingstree.

**Baptist Church.**

REV W E HURT, PASTOR.  
Services every Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock and evening at 7:30 o'clock.  
Sunday-school at 10.00 a. m.  
Prayer-meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 p. m.

**Episcopal Church.**

REV DR ROBERT WILSON, RECTOR.  
Every second and fourth Sunday, morning prayer, sermon and holy communion at 11 a. m.

**Methodist Church.**

REV W A FAIRY, PASTOR.  
Preaching every Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock and evening at 7:30 o'clock.  
Sunday-school at 4:30 p. m.  
Epworth League meets every Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock.  
Mid-week prayer meeting every Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock.

**Presbyterian Church.**

REV P S MCCHESEY, PASTOR.  
Preaching every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m. Sunday-school at 4 p. m.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday, 8:30 p. m.

the craving for these things and the patient is unable to resist. Cure the disease and the patient has no desire for these things. Recently a physician engaged in the hookworm work was told by a well educated and highly cultured lady who had hookworm disease that when the craving to eat sand came on, she would try to get it if she knew that she would be shot for doing so.

The skin of the person with hookworm disease is unusually dry and harsh. The hair of the head is dry and that on other parts of the body very scant.

(To be Continued.)

**Man Coughs and Breaks Ribs.**

After a frightful coughing spell a man in Neenah, Wis, felt terrible pains in his side and his doctor found two ribs had been broken. What agony Dr King's New Discovery would have saved him. A few teaspoonful ends a late cough, while persistent use routs obstinate coughs, expels stubborn colds or heals weak, sore lungs. "I feel sure it's a God-send to humanity," writes Mrs Effie Morton, Columbia, Mo, "for I believe I would have consumption today if I had not used this great remedy." It's guaranteed to satisfy, and you can get a free trial bottle or 50-cent or \$1.00 size at M L Allen's.

Governor Burke of North Dakota was raised by an Indiana farmer, who found him on the streets of New York.

When your child has whooping cough be careful to keep the cough loose and expectoration easy by giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as may be required. This remedy will also liquify the tough mucus and make it easier to expectorate. It has been used successfully in many epidemics and is safe and sure. For sale by all dealers.

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