

PUBLIC HEALTH

Hookworm, Foe of Progress, Still Burdens Many In South

Veteran of Hookworm Campaigns is Aroused Again by Findings of Resurvey of 19,000 Southern School Children

THE DISEASE of backwardness, hookworm, still has in its clutches one out of five school children in certain portions of the South, Dr. C. W. Stiles of the U. S. Public Health Service declared in a radio talk delivered under the auspices of Science Service, over the nationwide network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The dollars and cents meaning of this fact, particularly important in these days of economic depression, was stressed by Dr. Stiles, who pictured the hookworm as an enemy of the public pocketbook. Eradication of hookworm is a sound business proposition from the standpoint of the pocketbook of the family, of the school and of the taxes, he pointed out.

Over two decades ago, Dr. Stiles investigated the hookworm, discovered the American species and its widespread prevalence in the southern United States, and, with the backing of Rockefeller money, launched the campaign that has fought this "germ of backwardness" in every southern state and many foreign countries.

Today he is medical director of the National Institute of Health. He has just completed a resurvey of southern schools in which nearly 19,000 children were examined. He finds the hookworm still a burden upon the health and energies of the South.

Dr. Stiles described the schools he visited in this last survey. They covered 12 grades, some of the grades being divided into A, B, and C classes according to the pupils' mentality, scholarship or progress in studies.

About one-fourth, or 26 per cent., of the children in section A, the most advanced, showed signs of hookworm disease. Nearly half, 40 per cent, of the children in the intermediate B section showed symptoms of the disease. Over half, 85 per cent., of the children in the lowest section C showed the symptoms. In other words, the proportion of children infected with hookworm increased as their efficiency decreased. Hookworm disease is known to make for inefficiency and physical

and mental backwardness and has been called the laziness disease.

Surveys by independent investigators outside the U. S. Public Health Service show that hookworm infection in a large part of the South is about half what it was when the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission started its work in 1909. At that time more than two million people were affected in the southern states. In some localities today as many as three-fourths of the school children are still infected.

The disease still remains an important factor which should not be ignored, in spite of the reduction in number and intensity of cases, Dr. Stiles concluded.

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DR. C. W. STILES

Who, though about to retire after 40 years of service fighting disease for the U. S. Government, is still active in voicing a new call to battle against hookworm

ARCHAEOLOGY

Evolution Believed Taught by Indians Long Before Darwin

TENNESSEE may cling to her anti-evolution law, thus officially protesting against newfangled scientific theories; yet long before Darwin, native Americans of the Southwest were teaching their children evolutionary ideas as a matter of course. This chapter of the ancient history of evolution in America is pointed out by Arthur Woodward, curator, Los Angeles Museum.

For centuries the Zuni Indians have believed in evolution. The evidence is their creation myths, and also ancient fetishes of stone carved in the form of animals.

"Frank Cushing, that immortal ethnologist and primal recorder of Zuni folklore, set down the Zuni tale of 'The Drying of the World' and the evolution of the Zuni from small, reptile-like forms to men who walked upright and lived as men," said Mr. Woodward.

"According to the Zuni, in early days men, or at least the ancestors of men, lived in the bottommost of four caves beneath the earth. Then, the Two Cul-

ture Heroes, sons of the great Sun Father, took pity on the people and by means of cane ladders permitted them to crawl from the lowest level to the next cave. Here it was a bit lighter and the people began to assume upright forms. They multiplied and became restless, seeking higher levels. In this second cave they learned more of speech and began assuming a tribal identity.

"By means of a third ladder they ascended to the third cave which was brighter, and here they began to long for the outer world. In each climbing some were left behind. In the fourth cave, those who could crawl up the cane ladder became full-fledged Zuni, having been taught the arts by the Twin Culture Heroes.

"However, the earth was then very moist, and strange creatures and man-eating animals roamed the wet surface."

The Two Culture Heroes allowed the spirits of the giant beasts to linger in the fossil remains.

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