AN ACCIDENTAL INFECTION WITH *UNCINARIA*.

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IN the course of a study of a method for the recovery of *Uncinaria* larvae from the soil, one of the employees of the laboratory became infected under circumstances closely simulating experimental conditions. The history of the case is as follows:

On November 22, 1920, a quantity of faeces containing *Uncinaria* ova in large numbers was placed on the ground where it would be exposed to the sun and the rain. On December 8, many living larvae were recovered from the soil. These were placed in a tightly corked bottle out of the way on a high shelf, and all employees were warned that the specimen was not to be handled carelessly.

In spite of instructions, however, on December 11, one of the men took the specimen to demonstrate the larvae to some friends. While he was examining the preparation under the microscope, the fluid ran over the edge of the slide and came in contact with his hand. He is accustomed to hold the slide between the thumb and middle finger, allowing his hand at the base of the middle finger to rest upon the stage of the microscope.

Immediately after examining the specimen he became conscious of an intense itching at the tip of the thumb and tip and base of the middle finger.

On the following day, December 12, the three areas were inflamed and swollen and contained numbers of minute bright red points. There was no evidence of pus.

On December 13 the man noticed a marked tenderness under the arm in the region of the axillary glands. There was no evidence of lymphangitis, and the lesions on the hands remained the same as on the preceding day.

On December 14 a marked bronchitis developed. The stool was found to be negative for *Uncinaria* at this date and remained so for more than a month. Because he had been engaged as microscopist in our hookworm campaign in Panama, he had examined his stool many times during the previous year for ova of *Uncinaria*, with negative results.

The lesions on the hand had practically disappeared by December 24.

The stool was negative on January 10, 1921, but became positive for *Uncinaria* on January 17, thirty-eight days after the infection. On January 26 the ova were increased in number. The man left the city for the interior on January 26.

In answer to a request for information in regard to his condition in June, the following reply was received:

I have made other examinations and found several ova of *Uncinaria*. I am experiencing well-marked symptoms of the disease, such as general weakness, dizziness, and palpitation of the heart. My bronchitis is almost the same as when I left Panama. I have not as yet taken the treatment because of lack of time.

After repeated advice in regard to treatment, on October 31 I received the following letter:

When I received your telegram about treatment, I had already taken one treatment with chenopodium and collected the worms which were passed. I am enclosing a sample.

The sample mentioned contained about twenty hookworms. On November 15 the following statement arrived:

After a second treatment I was unable to find any worms. Repeated examinations for ova have been negative. I am now feeling quite well, except for palpitation of the heart.

From the above history it seems certain that in this case the larvae after passing through the skin, travelled up the lymphatics, through the axillary glands, into the blood stream and into the lungs in three days. The parasites had reached the intestines and had matured within thirty-eight days. One treatment with chenopodium had evidently sufficed to cure this particular case.