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worm; but it has been done. In one district of the Seychelles Islands, for instance, every one of the 740 houses now has an approved latrine, though only seven were so equipped when the work began. The suggestion that this statement refers to European residents can easily be disposed of by citing the fact that for the entire archipelago the white population is but 600. And what has been done in Seychelles has been done—in small areas, to be sure, but none the less effectively for those areas—in the West Indies, in Siam, in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in our own southern states. Perhaps in the last named locality the problems of the workers were as acute as anywhere, because here there was to be combatted not alone popular ignorance and indifference, but actual hostility against interference with the liberty of the individual. Yet in 66 of the 300 communities in the South where this sort of work was conducted within a certain period, not a home was left without an approved latrine; the percentage of houses so equipped before the campaign was, for these communities, 76.

So much for prevention. In addition, it may be news to a good many of our readers that a specific cure for hookworm has been in use for several years. The campaign against the pest has had more or less publicity, but we do not recall that this particular aspect of the case has as yet been touched upon in any save medical publications. The facts are, really, somewhat amusing. The worm occupies the intestine; the logical remedy is therefore to cause the patient to evacuate his unwelcome guests. But the worms are so firmly attached to the walls of the intestine that they resist with great success the action of ordinary purgatives.

In this dilemma, it occurred to the Rockefeller Institute's searchers that if the worms could only be paralyzed, they would "lose their grip" and be passed easily enough. Two drugs were found which have this happy effect upon the parasites, while at the same time producing no serious results in the case of a patient who was suffering from no organic weakness aside from the direct ravages of his hookworms. So the program of treatment consists of a dose of thymol or of chenopodium—just now the latter is preferred—to reduce the worms to helplessness, followed by castor oil or some other purgative. One treatment is seldom completely effective;



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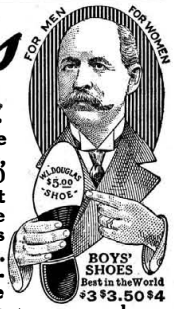

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