

hookworm disease

26 Broadway
New York

Lake George, N. Y.

August 18, 1909.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Dr. Stiles has spent several days with us, timing his visit at my invitation, to the presence here of Mr. Ogden's Southern Education Board, and bringing his lantern and slides. Mr. Peabody opened his house and an evening was given Dr. Stiles and his demonstration. Lecture, questions and discussion continued three hours and covered every phase of the subject, except that no attempt was made to anticipate the work of a commission to exterminate it.

Dr. Stiles was listened to with the most intense interest and created the same impression on all as before on me and others, including Dr. Flexner. Page had already been awakened to the situation by his investigations of country life in the South as a member of the Roosevelt Commission, Stiles being an attache of the commission. He announced that he had dedicated himself to this work. Frissell had heard Stiles at Hampton, and was prepared. To Alderman the presentation was first hand, but he had learned of the facts second hand by Stiles' lectures in University of Virginia, which he personally did not attend. Ogden said that for some time he had had in mind to ask the General Education Board to take this up. No one of the southern men were disposed either to question or minimize Stiles' conclusions; on the contrary, all corroborated the prevalence and seriousness of the disease both in its direct and indirect results, and were occupied, during part of the evening, in following them into their ultimate relations to education and the whole civic, social and industrial life of the South.

Next day I called in Alderman, Page and Claxton of Tennessee (By the way, some of the southern men said they had had it in their boyhood and one declared he knew he had it now) for conference on men and methods. My plan they all approved, viz: to

I. Disseminate information. This is to be done by seizing all the channels of information and using them:

1. The press, secular, religious, daily, weekly, periodical, local and general -- a press agent and a succession of articles adapted to every reader.

2. The pulpit. Get hearings in all ministerial associations, church gatherings, conventions and assemblies, with the idea of making the pastors intelligent on this subject and helpful to their people. We shall need an organized agency for this.

3. The Schools. Universities, colleges, both medical and cultural, of all kinds, high schools, normal schools, teachers institutes, industrial schools, and thus through these the district schools.

4. Physicians, through their associations, journals and private correspondence.

5. Women's Clubs.

II. Centrally located in each state, preferably connected with the Board of Health and paid for by same, a diagnostician and head physician, easily reachable with samples for test from every quarter of the state.

III. Enlist Health Boards of all states and shift to them as far as possible both detail and expense of each state.

We shall need a diversified group of agencies going from one central headquarters, adapted to reach and control all the various channels of information.

IV. After the public has become thoroughly indoctrinated, but not before, we can try to get the aid of Legislation.

Porto Rico is terribly infected - much worse than we are anywhere. About \$50,000 is being spent there annually. We shall need to have very full and very accurate reports from there on methods and results.

Alderman, Claxton and Page promise to assist in the selection of men from the South as trustees, and also in suggesting methods, and are now giving the subject their thought. Meanwhile, I am asking Stiles to procure for me information which may prove of value concerning Porto Rico.

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Gates m.