

"HOOKWORM DISEASE"

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New York, October 26, 1909.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

*Re letter of gift*

Your generous offer to pay such sums as may be needed during the next five years up to a total of One million dollars to carry on a scientific and popular campaign for eradicating "Hookworm Disease" has our heartiest approbation and we accept your invitation to administer this trust with a keen appreciation of the opportunity that you give us to do a great public good.

We have today taken steps for organization and incorporation for practical work and have named this board "The Rockefeller Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease".

The "Hookworm" parasites often so lower the vitality of those who are affected as to retard their physical and mental development, render them more susceptible to other diseases, make labor less efficient, and in the sections where the malady is most prevalent greatly increase the death rate from consumption, pneumonia, typhoid fever and malaria. It has been shown that the lowered vitality of multitudes long attributed to malaria and climate and seriously affecting economic development, is, in fact, largely due in some districts to this parasite. The disease is by no means confined to any one class; it takes its toll of suffering and death from the highly intelligent and well-to-do as well as from the less fortunate. It is a conservative estimate that two millions of our people are infected by this parasite. The disease is more common and more serious in children of school age than in other persons.

Widespread and serious as the infection is there is a most encouraging outlook. The disease can be easily recognized, readily and effectively

treated and by simple and proper sanitary precautions successfully prevented.

The undertaking proposed by you is therefore not only full of promise of great benefit but is eminently definite and practicable.

We desire, individually as well as collectively, to thank you for this opportunity to be of service to our fellowmen and we enter upon our task with a deep sense of the responsibility laid upon us.

Very truly,

William H. Welch

Simon Flexner

Charles W. Stiles

Edwin A. Alderman

David F. Houston

P. P. Claxton

J. Y. Joyner

Walter H. Page

H. B. Frissell

John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Frederick T. Gates

Starr J. Murphy.