

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER
(Tick Fever or Black Fever)

As the spring season approaches, the number of inquiries concerning the problems and prevention of Rocky Mountain spotted fever are increasing from day to day, Dr. C. E. Irwin, principal medical officer, revealed.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is endemic in at least 39 of the 48 states of the United States. In the West most of the cases occur during the spring and early summer with the greatest number in April and May which is the season of prevalence for the Rocky Mountain wood tick, according to Dr. R. R. Parker, director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service, Hamilton, Mont.

The Rocky Mountain wood tick (*Dermacentor andersoni*) is generally considered to be the tick carrying the infection which it can transmit to man. Probably from one to five percent of the ticks may be infected, the percentage varying with different districts. The causative agent may either be transmitted from one generation of ticks to another or the tick may become infected through various wild rodents or smaller wild animals such as squirrels, rabbits, prairie dogs, woodchucks, badgers, etc.

The dog tick and possibly other related species may also infect man.

The tick which has become infected either from some animal carrying the disease or through transmission from the female parent may transfer the disease to man.

The greatest number of cases occurring in man will be found in those groups which are engaged in some outdoor occupation, principally agriculture. Persons in range country where sheep are handled are in the greatest danger of infection. Forest workers, picnickers and campers may also be exposed to the wood tick.

Controlling measures include first, avoid areas known to be infested with the wood tick; second, control and elimination of animal hosts upon which the ticks may feed.

Those individuals who must work in areas infested by ticks should provide themselves with clothing which will make it difficult for the ticks to gain access to the body. For example, high boots or leggings or puttees and socks that are worn over the trouser leg are all of real value.

The Journal of American Medical Association recently carried an article on ticks which read in part:

"The ticks, which usually transfer from vegetation to the clothing at a height of less than 18 inches from the ground, will then crawl up the outside surface of the clothing, and most of them can be seen and removed. Those that reach the back of the neck, as many do if not discovered, even if entrance through the clothing has been made at some lower point, will usually be felt when they touch the skin or hairs on the neck. It is good practice when in dangerous country to pass the hand over the back of the neck occasionally to feel the ticks.

"Ticks are far more likely to secure a hold on rough clothing than on clothing of smooth texture. On the other hand, the progress of the tick is impeded by the nap of rough cloth, but fewer ticks secure a hold if the cloth is smooth."

Women working or walking through infested areas should wear the clothes similar to the ones just described for men.

Men who have been working in fields should remove their clothing as soon as they get home from work and carefully examine the same using caution that no ticks may escape and attach themselves to other members of the household. All ticks which are discovered should, of course, be destroyed.

Those families possessing dogs should look these animals over carefully at every opportunity and particularly in the dogs' ears and if ticks are found, they should be removed by the aid of pliers and destroyed and the wound where the tick was attached should be touched by some antiseptic such as tincture of iodine, tincture of mercuric iodine, or similar preparation.

If a tick is found attached to the back of your neck, remove it immediately because danger of tick bite infection increases with the length of time the tick is attached to the body through its mouth parts. Usually removal of the ticks can be accomplished satisfactorily by gently pulling it off the skin with the fingers. Mouth parts are not usually left in the wound. Some ticks have a longer hypostome or mouth part than others; however, infection by leaving the mouth part in the tissues is not as serious as leaving the tick attached for a long period of time.

If instruments are available, the tick may be lifted off the skin and gently pulled up so that a tent is made of the skin surrounding the site of attachment and the instrument may be slipped under the mouth parts and raised up and removed by raising up the instrument. As soon as the tick has been removed, the wound may be painted by tincture of iodine or touched with silver nitrate pencil.

No substance has been recommended to use upon the clothing to prevent the attachment of the ticks to the same.

The corps area surgeon has recommended such a procedure for the prevention of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in preference to the use of vaccine for the Military Police of the 331st Attachment.

The health department wishes the cooperation of all the people of the center in this type of prevention in the procedure mentioned above because of the fact that only a limited quantity of vaccine can be obtained from the laboratory at Hamilton, Montana, possibly only enough for attempted immunization of a few hundred people. We should, of course, give preference for the use of this vaccine to those field workers who will be exposed the most to the infected ticks, Dr. Irwin said.

Transfer of Warehouse and Property Control Section Announced

To conform with instructions issued by the Washington, WRA office, the warehouse and property control section was transferred from the transportation and supply division to the administrative services department, announced Gay Robertson, project director. The transfer became effective March 16.

Harvey P. Chandler, head of the warehouse and project control section, will assume all functions and responsibilities of the newly-transferred section with Howard E. Lewis in charge of project warehouses and Roland Washburn in charge of property control.

Two Residents Back From Farm Inspection Tour

A recent issue of The Sentinel Supplement carried an item on Yoshio Sasao and Ben Tsuchiya who returned to Heart Mountain from an inspection tour of the Hardin, Mont., farm area as representatives of the Holly Sugar Corporation. Sasao and Tsuchiya wish to make it clear that they were not representing the corporation but were investigating the prospects in an effort to report to residents their unbiased findings in that area.

Hospital Seeks Replacements for Nurses' Aides

With many nurses' aides leaving the hospital to get relocated, Chief Nurse Anna S. Van Kirk today issued another plea for replacements:

In asking for 12 women, Nurse Van Kirk declared that valuable training and experience can be gained as a nurses' aide while rendering humanitarian service to the community. Older women may also apply, she added.

Interested persons are urged to contact Nurse Van Kirk at the hospital before April 1 between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Plan Service Flag for Heart Mountain Boys in Army

Plans for a service flag bearing a star for each Heart Mountain boy in the armed forces including the recent volunteers and a roster bearing each name to be hung in the administration building were announced by Douglas M. Todd, assistant project director.

The cooperation of parents and relatives in securing names and addresses of these service men who are sons, brothers or husbands of Heart Mountain residents is asked. Residents are to fill out the blank below and send it to the USO headquarters, 23-25-N immediately:

(Name of service man)

(Heart Mountain address)

(Rank)

(Where stationed)

(Branch of Service)

◎だにの熱病豫防に就て

春期から初夏にかけて(特に四月及び五月)はロツキ。マウンテン。スポッテッド。ファイヴァ(熱病の一種)の危険季節とされてゐるが右は病毒を持つだに(ティツク)に咬まれる爲感染するものであるから農園、森林、牧畜場の如き野外就働者や自然に親しむ者が特に注意を要する。此の地方のだにで病毒を持つてゐるのは約五パーセントに過ぎないが犬や兎の如き小動物は病毒を持つだにの宿となる事が多いから犬を飼つてゐる家庭では時々つかまへて耳の中などを特にしらべて見る必要がある。

豫防法としては第一危険區域に出来るだけ近寄りぬ事、第二はだにが附着し易い動物に注意する事で、野外労働の場合は男でも女でも長靴やレグンス或は長靴下で特別足部を固め出来るだけだにの附着に困難な衣類を着ることで歸宅の場合は直ちに着物を着更へ、よく拂つてだにが居らぬかを検査することである。

若し不幸にしてだにに咬まれた場合

はピンセットか或は爪端でだにの口を残さぬ様引き離し、沃度チンキを付けて置くのである。だにの口を完全に除き去らず残して置くと大變な結果となるが故に殊に注意して手當をせねばならぬ。

モンタナ州のハミルトン醫學實驗所では此のだにの熱病に對する豫防注射液をつくつてゐるが當センター病院では多くて數百名分しか入手出来な故これは主として野外の從業員の爲使用することになつてゐる。一般居住者にはよろしく右の注意書を熟讀してその豫防に注意されたいと。

○先週の臨時版にて征鳥、土屋兩氏がホーリー砂糖會社を代表して農園視察したとあつたが、兩氏は同會社とは關係なしに實地調査に赴いたものであると。

○病院では缺乏の人員を補充の爲、十二名の兒看護婦を募集中等であるが中年の婦人も歡迎する故、志望者は四月一日まで毎日八時から三時半の間に病院のヴァンカー看護婦に申込まれたいと。

○軍府より指令に依り倉庫及び官有物管理課は運輸供給部より經理部に移された。

◎二世兵の名簿作成

ハイトマウンテンの各二世兵士を青星に表徴した入營旗を管理本部に掲げるため目下入營中及び今回志願した二世兵の名簿を作成中であるが、關係家族は英文欄に刷込の用紙に各項記入の上廿三區廿五(北側)のU.S.O支部に直ちに提出されたいとタツド副所長より希望があつた。

○柔道友校會では廿八日(日)午後一時半から廿區廿六に於いて柔道進級大試合を行ふ事になつたが當日は一般の來觀を歡迎すると。

○赤十字社會員募集 當轉住所赤十字社支部では三千名の會員募集を目標として活動するが會費は壹弗其の半額は本部へ半額は當所支部の經費に使用する事となり會費以外の寄附は全部當支部の費用に充當すると因に支部委員會を廿三日夜七時十四區廿六で開くと。