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WOOD TICKS FOUND ON THE PENIS CASE REPORTS*

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TICKS are found over the entire United States and they are often discovered on the bodies of humans and animals whose activities require that they go into the woods or fields. The tick is a blood-sucking parasite that infests the skin of its host and in rare instances causes disease, disability and death. The mites belong to the family of *Ixodidae* or *Argasidae*, both of which under favourable conditions transmit disease to man and beast. The *Ixodidae*, so far as is known, is the species which is most injurious to man in this country.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is the most serious infection transmitted by the wood tick which is observed in the United States. This fatal infection is found chiefly in the Bitter Root Mountains of Montana and several adjoining States. The tick conveying this disease is scientifically known as *Dermacentor Andersoni Stiles*. Recently reports have appeared in the literature of wood tick paralysis in children ¹ and 2 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever have been reported in Monmouth County and in New Jersey.²

Case Reports.—Patient No. 15228, white, single, insurance agent, aged thirty-four, admitted in June, 1932. He was in apparent good health and his only complaint was a tumour of the penis. He had noticed a swelling of the organ twenty-four hours before admission and as there had been a recent sexual exposure he thought it might be a chancre. Examination revealed no pertinent pathology save a circumscribed mass of the penis which could be readily observed and palpated through the prepuce. Upon retracting the foreskin a large tick, the size of a small lima bean, was found attached to the glans near the corona. Traction with thumb forceps failed to remove the parasite and the point of a scalpel

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was necessary to free it from the tissue. There was slight bleeding following its removal. An antiseptic was applied and the area protected with a dry dressing. The patient did not return for further observation.

Patient No. 154693, white, aged thirty-one, single, chauffeur, admitted July, 1934. His only complaint was a growth on the penis which had been present for a week. Last sexual exposure four weeks before. We discovered a wood tick about the size of a pea attached to the skin of the penis on the left side at the penoscrotal junction. The parasite was removed and the wound swabbed with iodine and a small dry dressing applied. The patient made only one visit to the clinic.

REFERENCES

- (1) BARNETT, E. J. : " Wood Tick Paralysis in Children." *J.A.M.A.*, 109, **846**, September 11th, 1937.
- (2) *New York Times*, Sunday, August 22, 1937.