THE DEATH OF ARTHUR LOOSS

The European papers announce the death of Arthur Looss after a long illness on May 4, 1923, at Giessen. He was born on May 16, 1861, at Chemnitz, and received his early education in his native city and at Lodz in Poland. He afterwards studied at the University of Leipzig, and in 1885 received the degree of doctor of philosophy, his thesis being on the Trematodes. He was sent by Leuckart to Egypt to study the transmission of bilharzia. While there he became interested in hookworm and owing to an accidental infection of himself made the discovery of the ability of this larval worm to penetrate the skin. The larvae are then carried to the heart and lungs and finally reach the intestinal tract from the trachea. He wrote two volumes on the anatomy and life history of the hookworm which were published in the records of the Government School of Medicine. He was for many years professor of parasitology and biology at the School of Medicine in Cairo. He continued his work until after the outbreak of the World War when he retired from his chair and returned to Germany.

While Looss gave his entire life to the study of helminthology, and made many notable contributions to the medical branch of this subject, for us in America his chief work will always be his demonstration of the method of infection in hookworm, which is found in such a large portion of our southern countries and in the islands which are under our control. The infection is world-wide in tropical and subtropical climates. Stiles estimates that two million individuals are infected between the Potomac and the Mississippi Rivers. The discovery of the mode of infection pointed the way to prevention of the disease. The results obtained by Ashford in Porto Rico and Stiles in America have demonstrated the value of this discovery. Looss made for himself a name as one of the most distinguished of helminthologists and put the world under a debt of gratitude to him.

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