

Green Point
Pambula
2nd Jan 1906

My Dear Mother
Sisters & Brothers

I have some news for you now which was near being a funeral. On Sunday morning about 12 o'clock Hilda was bitten by a black snake on her heel. The children were all going with their papa to gather cherries to eat, when she stepped on the snake's nest and on a young one, the mother of it then rushed and bit her. Papa was just beside her and snatched her in his arms and ran a few yards away and placing her on the ground sucked the poison out. Her screams were terrible and caused me to run & see the cause. Then I rushed in and got a knife and ran down to where they were and papa held her down whilst I cut the part right out. Poor child her cries were terrible and the part bled violently until the doctor came and stopped it. I tied 2 bandages 1 round her ankle and 1 below the knee, as firmly as I could and stopped the circulation.

Ivy & Edna then ran to Longhursts and he galloped for the Doctor and both got here in less than an hour after. The poor children had to rush through a thunder shower which came just as they started. We had great difficulty in keeping her awake and the cold perspiration came all over her face and her skin went leaden and waxy several times she was nearly gone but we roused her with brandy & ammonia of which we happened to have a little, left since my illness. The poor child lost more than a quart of blood and my clothes were saturated with it to my skin, for I carried her up and down the verahdah and had to shake her to keep her awake, then came the cramps and pain all went under her knee and she screamed when moved so we kept her awake with salts and roused her until after 6 o'clock when the dr said it would be safe to let her sleep for an hour then wake her and give brandy & water to keep her heart from failing as that was the chief thing to fear then. We took her to the hospital about 3 in the afternoon to be handy in case of collapse and as there were no others in she got plenty of attention, and people came in and out all the time until church time. Mip King her every hour for her medicine or a teaspoon ful of brandy, she knew us but seemed only half to notice, and the first reak notice she took was about half past 3 in the early morning when she made some commonplace remark about some thing she could see and spoke in her natural lively tone. I forgot to ... she belched about 20 times and could not take anything but drinks of water and a sip of milk. Papa came for us at about 11 o'clock next morning as the Dr said the critical time would be over by morning. The dear child prayed several times for Jesus to take her to heaven if she died and to forgive and wash her in his precious blood. But he has been pleased spare her and we are thankful.

The people of the town were all excited after it and we were stopped a good many times before we could get away. Dr says her father saved her ... life. But he feels very sick ever since

I had to slash a bit out of my thumb while I sharpened the knife and I got some of the poison into it I think for she kicked about a good lot and I have had great pain in my hand & arm ever since. All the others are well. I got your letters. Glad you saw Mahala. I don't know her address, please send her word. Hilda will be a bit lame & weak for a good while I expect. Dr says abcesses

Of course the other 3 had to be left alone while we went to the hospital, papa went back to them and in again after tea but she was too ill to be taken back then so I waited with her to be handy (for we could only wait) and papa came back home because of the others, and now Praise the Lord she is recovering.

I remain your affectionate daughter Clara Woollard

Description of Envenomation and Shock Symptoms

ENVENOMATION - **Puncture Marks, pain**, swelling, headache, fainting/dizziness, muscle weakness, difficulty breathing, + shock

SHOCK - **Pale, cold** and **clammy** skin, large blood loss, rapid and weak pulse, rapid and shallow breathing, nausea/vomiting, becoming **drowsy** and **sluggish**

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