

7 Methyl mercury poisoning by the polluted fishes

What is the cause of Minamata disease?

There were not abundant with foods in Minamata in those days.

Especially near the sea there were little plains to grow rice, people who lived there could not get much rice. And it is more abundant with fishes in the sea, and it is easier to get fishes from the sea than rice from plains for the people who live in the village near the sea. They had eaten more fishes than rice. And without fishes they had not survived.

Especially in the fishing village there had broken out many Minamata disease, as people had been eating the fresh fishes from the sea without knowing that they had been polluted by methyl mercury. Methyl mercury had been accumulated in the bodies of the people.

Minamata disease is not contagious but poisonous disease by methyl mercury. It never infects you. And you never inherit the disease.

There are three kind of Minamata disease. Minamata disease in fetuses, children Minamata disease, and adults Minamata disease.

The former is the disease which was caused by the polluted fishes the fetus' s mother had eaten. And the second and third which was caused by the polluted fishes they had eaten themselves.

Fishes in Minamata Bay when Minamata disease had been appearing.

