

Austria in 1898. The germs were brought over from India and Dr. Muller was put in charge of the experimental work. The earliest victim of the plague in Europe was a man named Barisch who was detailed to watch the animals used in the experiment. Due to carelessness, he became infected with the disease and died. This definitely established the fact that pneumonic plague was caused by a plague germ, bacillus pestis. The people attending his case also died, proving the infectious quality, high fatality, and difficulty of diagnosis of this disease, as it was not recognized until he had been ill three days.

RAT EXTERMINATION MAY BE NECESSARY TO STOP PLAGUE

Complete extermination of the rats in Los Angeles may be necessary before the pneumonic plague can be stopped among the inhabitants. Ground squirrels in California are known to be infected with the plague and have been for several years. They may have spread the disease to the rats of the city.

So far the cases have been confined to the Mexican quarter and to the people who have visited their sick friends. In this case only the most extreme quarantine will have any effect.

The latest report from the U. S. Public Health Service shows a total of 29 cases reported and 22 deaths.

A plague serum, rather like the anti-toxin used in diphtheria, has been sent out to the coast by a drug company in Philadelphia. This is purely an experiment as it has never been tried before in the treating of pneumonic plague.

No alarm is shown by the U. S. Public Health Service over the report of a case of bubonic plague in New Orleans. The plague was brought over by a Belgian sailor on a Greek ship from Algeria. The case was diagnosed upon his arrival and all precautions were taken. Since the plague is spread by the bite of a rat flea the ship, *Atlanticos*, has been entirely cleared of rats and has been disinfected.

About a month ago a case of yellow fever was reported in New Orleans without causing a ripple of interest in the medical profession. It was impossible for that case to spread because it was so late in the season that mosquitoes which act as the carrier were dead. In the second place, the case was fully developed and a yellow fever patient cannot infect the carrier after the first 72 hours of the development of the case.

PLANTS RESPOND TO STIMULUS THOUGH THEY HAVE NO NERVES

Definite response by plants to stimuli, under circumstances that disprove any idea of nervous connection, was the subject of experiments reported to the Royal Society by R. Snow of Trinidad.

In his experiments, Mr. Snow cut the stem of a sensitive plant in two, connecting the parts only with a rubber tube filled with water. Yet a stimulus on one side of the cut was transmitted through the water, for the leaves on the other side responded by folding up. A stem crushed in water gave this water the power to stimulate any shoot dipped into it. Mr. Snow believes that when a plant is stimulated, some substance is released that travels in the sap, or in the present instance in the water, and thus causes a response in a distant part.