## EGG SUPPLY TREATENED BY INVISIBLE RAIDER

The wheels of government have turned rapidly here to protect America's fresh egg industry from the menace of an unseen foe. With numbers of chickens in New York tucking their heads under their wings and dying of the devastating European plague, Congress has voted $100,000 to provide inspection of poultry similar to that already given to other livestock. Department of Agriculture officials, alarmed at the threatening spread of the disease to other sections of the country, are taking steps to enforce the provisions of the bill as soon as it becomes law.

The European plague has practically wiped out poultry raising in certain sections of Austria, Hungary, and other old world countries. It attacks all kinds of poultry, but water fowl are less subject to it than chickens.

The combs and wattles of birds seized with this disease turn dark red to purple, the eyes close, the birds droop, stick their heads under their wings, and die in from five hours to three or four days. The symptoms are so similar to chicken cholera that it is often only upon expert examination of the blood that the two diseases can be distinguished. The case of chicken cholera is produced by a defini easily detected germ. The microscope, however, does not show the organism which causes the European pest or plague. It is what is known as a "filterable virus", the causative agent being so small that it can pass through a fine porcelain filter which strains out ordinary germs. When the filtrate is administered to chickens, however, it produces the characteristic symptoms of the disease.

Cases have been reported from New York City and the country immediately surrounding it. It has also been reported on one farm up-state in New York. Chickens only have been affected so far in this country and the younger chickens are probably the most susceptible although the disease is known to attack fowls regardless of age or sex.

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## SAYS INFECTION MAY LURK IN "HARMLESS" ORGANISMS

Micro-organisms, usually considered harmless, may under appropriate conditions attack the body of an animal, with which they have been associated, to the point of producing dangerous illness, Dr. Richard P. Strong, Harvard University, pointed out in his vice-presidential address before the medical sciences section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Micro-organisms living on dead tissue, are found in the noraml mouth or tonsils of many individuals, as well as in association with other parts of the body, he said. "Under certain circumstances in which the resistance of the individual is lowered, and the tissues bruised or burned, these organisms may change their character, and gradually develop pathogenic properties, producing extensive ulcerative and frequently gangrenous lesions," Dr. Strong stated.

"Such ulcerations may occur about the mouth and throat and in the lungs, and in the tropics large chronic ulcerations may be produced on the legs."

Dr. Strong cited examples of minute plant and animal forms commonly regarded as innocuous, and living on dead material, which have been known to change in character so that they simulate the organisms responsible for well-defined diseases, producing the symptoms of the malady in question and feeding on the body of the host animal. The evidence which he presented requires a change in viewpoint of conservative bacteriologists, many of whom consider the characteristics of a germ as definit