A Common Benefactor

**Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928**

**Medicine**

(\*Baltimore, Jan. 16.—It was announced today that a gift of $195,000 ($25,000) had been made to the Johns Hopkins University here for the study of "the origin, nature and possible cure of the common cold". —Nan.\*)

High praise to science we accord

For knowing how to ease

The pains of people who are floored

By a first-class disease;

Nor do we grudge our leech the fee

That in his pocket jingles

When his attentions set us free

From gout, pneumonia, pleurisy,

Clergyman’s throat or shingles.

But all researches, new or old,

Into the cause and cure

Of just the common vulgar cold

Have left the thing obscure;

And none can teach us, though the quacks

Purvey their patent wheezes,

To dodge a plain catarh’s attacks,

Inducing shivers down our backs

With intermittent sneezes.

Cynics, of course, will say that those

Who undertook the quest

Of remedies for running nose

Have never tried their best;

For, if they ever hit upon

The means to make a fellow

Immune when winter’s worst

comes on,

Their occupation would be gone,

Like that of poor Othello.

But lo! from Transatlantic parts

Great tidings we have heard

That promise cheer to chilly hearts

Long sick with dope deferred;

Those dirty germs will soon be downed

Under a rude corrective,

Now a philanthropist has found

Something like forty-thousand pound

With that humane objective.

For Mr. Coolidge our regard

Can surely never cease

While he is building cruisers hard

To push the cause of Peace;

But he that aims at killing dead

The common cold—we must exalt

him o’er

Even the Presidential head,

This gentleman of whom we’ve read

Such balmy news from Baltimore.

O. S.