

PUBLIC HEALTH

Bubonic Plague Now in France Probably Came From Africa

THE CASES of bubonic plague in Marseilles, France, which have just been reported to the U.S. Public Health Service, may have had their origin in northern Africa where the disease has also been reported and where it is quite common, health authorities in Washington have said. So far only four cases have been reported from the French city, but there may be many more which have not yet come to the notice of officials.

The chief significance of the outbreak, so far as this country is concerned, is that Marseilles is now an in-

fect port and ships coming from there must be carefully watched by U. S. quarantine officers. Travellers to France, however, need feel no alarm, public health officials said.

Plague is a highly fatal disease. Known as the Black Death and the pest, this disease raged throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. Its first appearance seems to have been in Egypt in the time of the later Pharaohs. At present there are five spots at which it is always present and from which it is spread to various parts of the earth. Four of these are in Asia and one in Africa.

The disease is transmitted by the flea from rats, squirrels or other small rodents which harbor the germs. During an outbreak of it in this country, the ground squirrels became infected and have since been an additional reservoir of the disease. Eradication of rats by rat-proof construction of all buildings, including warehouses, business houses, residences and docks, is recommended as a means of protection against the plague. Rat guards are used on hawsers of ships coming from plague infested ports, and these ships are not allowed to come in contact with docks or other vessels.

The disease in man runs a very rapid course. Pneumonic plague, which is particularly fatal, attacks the lungs. Bubonic plague gets its name from the buboes or swellings of the lymph glands. A serum which gives fairly good results as a protective measure exists. Curative measures are not very successful. The mortality may be as high as 80 or 90 per cent.

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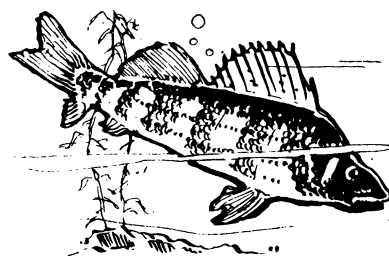
The housewife who wants to get setting-up exercises along with her sweeping will be glad to know that it takes two and one-half times as much energy to sweep a rug with a broom as it does to clean the same rug with a carpet sweeper.

The ancient Egyptians had a system of buying somewhat like our "dollar down and a dollar a month" plan, judging by Egyptian writings exhibited at the Field Museum.

ICHTHYOLOGY

Nature Ramblings

By FRANK THONE



Yellow Perch

"PRAY you, sir, give me some observations and directions concerning the *Perch*, for they say he is both a very good and bold-biting fish, and I would fain learne to fish for him."

Thus the disciple of the Master of all Fishermen, the great Izaak. And the ways of the perch are well worth learning, though he be no bass or trout, for he puts up enough of a fight to give even an experienced fisherman a mild thrill, and when he comes to the table he can hold up his head and tail on the platter with the most aristocratic of them. Jordan and Evermann say of him, "As a pan-fish we do not know of any better among American freshwater fishes. We have experimented with the yellow perch and several other species, including both species of black bass, the blue-gill, wall-eyed pike, and rock-bass, eating each for several days in succession, and found the yellow perch the sweetest and most delicious of them all. One does not tire of it so soon as of the other kinds."

The yellow perch is for choice a lake fish, abounding in the smaller waters of the northern states; but it is found also in streams as far south as North Carolina. It bites readily the year round, on almost any kind of bait, and will on occasion even take an artificial lure. It can be fished for through the ice in winter, when it goes most readily after minnow bait.

The yellow perch never reaches really large size; a two-pounder is to be rated as pretty big, and most specimens do not run much over half that. But it is an economical fish, not wasting much weight on head and tail and other inedible parts, so that even perch of less than a pound are well worth taking home.

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