Foot and Mouth Disease Fought In New California Outbreak

WAR against an invader, no less deadly and relentless than it would be if the invader were a hostile foreign nation, has broken out in southern California. The first battle has been won by forces of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State of California, in the mass slaughter of 5,000 hogs, in two herds at Guena Park, Orange County, known to be infected with foot and mouth disease or to have been exposed to it. The luckless squealing animals were driven into great trenches dug to receive them, shot down to the last pig, covered with quicklime and buried. No cure is known for foot and mouth disease, and it spreads like wildfire among any kind of hoofed animals; so immediate massacre and quick burial constitute the only possible treatment.

Several times have different parts of the United States been threatened with this disease, which attacks human beings as well as livestock, and which is widespread in Europe, South America and other parts of the earth. Each time it has been stamped out by the same Spartan methods of mass killing and rigid quarantine of the areas known to contain the infected soil—for the virus lives for some time on the surface of the ground.

The general in charge of the Federal forces in California is Dr. Rudolph Snyder, of the Department of Agriculture, who was in Texas when the outbreak was discovered and flew to the fighting front by airplane. In charge of the California forces is Dr. J. J. King, State veterinarian. The invasion was first discovered by Dr. L. M. Hurt, who notified State and Federal authorities. Positive diagnosis of foot and mouth disease was made by Dr. Jacob Traum of the University of California.

In the background, in Washington, stands the chief of the bureau of animal industry of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. John R. Mohler, ready to speed to the assistance of his lieutenant if necessary. He has confidence, however, that Dr. Snyder will have the situation in hand; for Dr. Snyder had charge of the Federal work during the California outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in 1924 and 1929, and therefore rates as a veteran in this kind of warfare. For sinews of war, there remains a sum left over after the 1924 outbreak had been put down, and Dr. Mohler is hopeful that it will suffice for the present emergency.

It is not known how the present invasion broke into the country. It seems probable, however, that it was imported, for Orange County lies on the seacoast, between Los Angeles and San Diego counties, and within easy trucking distance of several seaports. The hogs were known to be garbage-fed; and it was garbage from a coastwise steamer from South America that started the 1929 foot and mouth disease epidemic in California.

One encouraging feature in the present situation is found in the relative isolation of the two infected herds of hogs which have been destroyed. Without a strict quarantine in force, it may well be that the first battles will also be the last.

Physiology
After-Dinner Thirst Lasts Only Few Hours

EXPLANATION of why you get thirsty right after dinner was given in a report by Dr. Magnus Gregerson of Harvard University Medical School to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Right after eating, water is withdrawn from the blood and tissues of the body and used to increase the digestive fluids. This leaves the body in a dried-out condition and makes you feel very thirsty. As digestion progresses, the mixture of food and digestive fluids is absorbed, the water is restored to the blood and tissues, and you gradually lose your thirst. So if you cannot get a drink to quench your after-dinner thirst you may console yourself with the thought that the thirst will diminish within a few hours anyway.

Dr. Gregerson studied after-dinner