

DENTISTRY

Susceptibility to Tooth Decay May Be Inherited

► THE MOTHER who says, "My daughter gets her poor teeth from me," implying that there is some inherited factor in dental disease, is probably right.

Susceptibility to tooth decay seems to run in a family, very likely is inherited and may be sex-linked, Dr. Henry Klein, Senior Dental Officer, U. S. Public Health Service, found from a study of 5,400 parents and children in 1,150 families. Details of the study, made on families of Japanese ancestry at the Colorado River Relocation Center, are reported in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* (June).

When both parents had little or no signs of dental disease, their children also had good teeth. When both parents had poor teeth, the children also had much dental trouble. If one parent had good teeth and the other had medium or very bad teeth, the children had more tooth decay than children whose parents both had good teeth, but less than that seen in children with both parents having poor teeth.

The state of the mother's teeth seemed more closely related to that of the daughter's than the state of the father's teeth did.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1946

CHEMISTRY

"T-13" Keeps Down Lint, Dust and Bacteria

► IF YOU WANT to keep lint, dust and disease-spreading bacteria from scattering around your house from bedding, clothes, towels and floors, the U. S. Army has the answer to your problem.

An oil emulsifying agent developed during the war to cut down the spread of respiratory diseases in Army barracks has just been released. The oil emulsion, known as "T-13", was applied to woolen and cotton materials during the final rinse in the normal laundering process. Quantities of the oil depended on the type of material and 10 or 12 minutes more time was required in the normal laundering process, the Army reports.

"T-13" contains a medicinal mineral oil and "Triton NE," a non-ionic, emulsifying agent.

Dry cleaning removes the emulsion completely, but ordinary washing will not.

Science News Letter, June 29, 1946

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