

Tularemia In Siberia

Pathology

Tularemia, one of the new diseases which until now has been apparently limited to this country, has just appeared in Siberia. A short time ago it was recognized for the first time in Japan. Now a specimen of blood serum from a guinea pig was recently received by the Hygienic Laboratory here with a request to examine it for tularemia. The examination was made and showed that the blood came from an animal infected with the disease.

The specimen had been sent from the Sanitary and Bacteriological Institute of Sderdlovsk (Ekaterinburg) in the Ural region of Asiatic Russia.

Tularemia was recognized in this country only during recent years. It made its appearance first in the West. Hunters and others who handled rabbits were suffering from a strange new illness. Dr. Alec Francis of the U. S. Public Health Service discovered that the disease was caused by an organism found in rabbits or other rodents which transferred it to men by their bites. Also, merely handling the infected animal, as in the case of butchers dressing rabbits, was a source of infection.

Until the report of a case in Japan a few months ago the disease had not occurred, or at least had not been recognized, outside of the United States. Dr. Francis, who has done all the pioneer work on tularemia and is an authority on the subject, thought the disease was traveling from west to east. The New England States have not had any cases so far, and it has only very recently appeared in New York State. Whether it has jumped clear over to Siberia in its eastward course or whether it has always been there, though unrecognized, is a question.

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College Men Are Rangers

Forestry

Pioneer rangers, who knew their West but didn't know much about trees; present-day rangers who come out knowing their trees but who have to learn their West, furnished dramatic and diverting material for Will C. Barnes, veteran U. S. Forest Service man, who talked before the joint meeting of the National Forestry Association and the Florida Forestry Association.

The first rangers. Mr. Barnes said, were for the most part ex-cowboys. They wore the shaggy chaps and the five-quart hats proper to that ancient and honorable calling, and trees to them had always been taken for

Two Laboratories?

Engineering

Two hydraulic laboratories instead of one will probably solve the problem now before the House Rivers and Harbors Committee as to whether the Bureau of Standards or the Board of Army Engineers should have jurisdiction over the hydraulic laboratory provided by a bill which has already passed the Senate.

Representative S. Wallace Dempsey, Republican, of New York, chairman of the House Rivers and Harbors Committee, has informed Dr. G. K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, that he is in favor of an hydraulic laboratory to be administered by the Bureau, but that inasmuch as the Board of Army Engineers objects to having research work concerning their activities on the rivers and harbors of this country carried on in another department of the government, he believes that it will be wise to provide for two such laboratories. The one for the Army Engineers, it is believed, will be located near Fort Humphries, and conducted in connection with the Army Engineering School.

Chairman Dempsey plans to add these hydraulic laboratory bills to the omnibus rivers and harbors bill which will be introduced, referred to the Rivers and Harbors Committee, and thereafter soon reported out, as soon as possible after the Seventy-first Congress convenes.

Some provision will be made in the language referring to the work of the Bureau of Standards laboratory, it is believed, whereby laboratory work relating to the behavior and control of river and harbor waters will be undertaken only at the request of the chief of Army engineers.

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granted as mere incidents of ranch life. But they knew horses and cattle and sheep, and proved admirable in handling the knotty problems of grazing in the national forests.

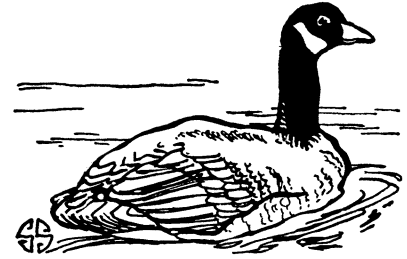
Then the new generation of school-trained men began to filter in. The old-timers took them in hand. Naturally they "gave them a ride", but the youngsters were game, stood the gaff, and learned their business. Sometimes they showed the former cattle gentlemen a trick or two of their own. And from such a mingling of old elements and new the Forest Service has grown up.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Wild Geese

Thawed snows, a bright day following a long rain, lakes and ponds high with melted ice—and a wedge of wild geese sails above the sunset, heading north. Spring is surely coming.

Geese have always been associated with human beings. They were probably among the first domesticated fowl, and have borne strangely contradictory reputations for both sagacity and silliness. As a matter of sober fact, they are probably less silly and more sagacious than almost any of the larger birds, and the courage and family devotion of an old gander should be a real edification among the looser morals and easier ties of the barnyard.

Like many familiar birds, the goose has given rise to many unfamiliar tales, none the less interesting merely because they are not true. The slight resemblance in appearance between geese and the stalked barnacles called "goose barnacles" early set in circulation the idea that they were related. In its most fantastic form, the legend told of trees whose leaves or fruits fell into the water and became "birds called barnacles". This happened, most conveniently for the tellers of such tales, in the far North:

"So, slow Bootes underneath him sees
In th' ycie iles, those goslings hatcht
of trees;
Whose fruitful leaves, falling into the
water
Are turned (they say) to living fowls
soon after."

It was, perhaps, easier to believe these tales of the origin of wild geese, since the breeding grounds of these birds were so far north that the inhabitants of Britain and Central and Southern Europe knew very little of them except by hearsay.

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