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THE EVER RECURRING QUESTION**

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New Typhus Carriers

MYSTERY surrounds the insect which transmits typhus fever in this country. The body louse, which transmits the disease in the Old World, does not seem to be the transmitting agent here, studies of the U. S. Public Health Service have indicated. These studies were begun some time before the present flare-up of cases in Virginia and Maryland. The disease has existed in endemic form in the United States for several years, and no alarm need be felt about any widespread epidemic from the present outbreak, health officers stated.

More cases seem to have been reported this year than last, but this may not mean that there actually are more cases. Public health officers have been talking a lot about the disease in recent years and consequently physicians are watching for it and probably cases are being reported which formerly would have been unrecognized.

The Public Health Service studies are directed toward finding what insect transmits the disease in this country, since the louse seems to be out. At that, the investigators have only negative proof that the disease is not transmitted by lice in this country as well as in Europe. The patients who have been examined did not have any lice on their bodies or clothing. This does not exclude the possibility of their having been bitten by an infected louse two weeks or so before getting sick, health officials explained.

Ticks, blood-sucking mites, and fleas are some of the insects now held under suspicion and being investigated as possible transmitters of typhus fever. No definite results have been obtained thus far.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, July 12, 1930

Health Fellowships

THE FIRST endowment for the new National Institute of Health has just been received from the Chemical Foundation.

This institution has presented \$100,000, the income from which is to go for fellowships in basic chemical research matters which have to do with public health.

The gift was made to the Treasury through Senator Joseph E. Ransdell of Louisiana, who sponsored the legislation which has made the National Institute of Health a reality.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, July 12, 1930



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