

and workers both young and old. Two wine-soaked jackets along with several hundred specimens were sealed in a rectangular museum jar. The jar was placed in the dark and periodically examined. When brought into the light the specimens began to coat the jar, so that, after a time the four sides were coated with a clay-like substance. It was a lively, interesting sight to see the specimens running through the tunnels made in the material coating the glass. Over a period of four years, there were no swarms, although many young specimens were observed. No mold was formed, as is often the case when cultivating termites in the laboratory. The end came when the food was consumed.

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#### SCIENTIFIC INTUITION OF A ROMAN EPICURE. A QUOTATION

THE appended quotation<sup>1</sup> from Petronius, Rabelais' prototype at Nero's court, is peculiarly timely to-day: "But tell us," said Trimalchio, "what was the bill of fare?"

"All right," he replied, "I'll tell you if I can: my memory is so brilliant that I often forget my own name. However, to begin with, we had a roast pig crowned with a wine-cup; this was set off by cheese-cakes and forcemeat done to a nicety; then of course beetroot and pure whole-meal bread, which I prefer to white bread as being more feeding and better for my liver."

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## QUOTATIONS

### DISEASE IN WARTIME<sup>1</sup>

#### MALARIA

BECAUSE it includes one of the recently acquired military bases of the United States, Trinidad takes on new importance to this country. At the request of the Army and Navy and on the invitation of the Government of Trinidad, the Rockefeller Foundation is participating in a study of malaria in the civilian population of that island. Malaria is the outstanding health problem there, and while the identity of the principal vectors responsible for the disease in Trinidad has not been definitely established, evidence points to two species of anopheline mosquitoes. One of these species breeds in the water which collects in the leaves of a plant growing on trees. Malaria is thus often prevalent in regions where the usual marshes and streams, commonly associated with the disease, are absent, and this probably accounts for the fact that malaria is found at nearly all altitudes in Trinidad. The Foundation has assigned a malariologist and an entomologist to determine the factors of the problem, and when these have been obtained it will be possible to make intelligent plans for controlling the disease.

Another project in malaria under Foundation auspices is on the Burma Road. This project was begun in 1940 under the direction of Dr. W. C. Sweet of the Foundation staff. On one section of the Road, troops and truck drivers became heavily infected with malaria a short time after their arrival, and investigations were begun at that point. More than twenty species of anopheline mosquitoes were found in this area, but only one proved to be an effective carrier of the disease. A laboratory has been

established directly on the Road, and although under the war circumstances the project has encountered great difficulties, it is hoped that effective control measures will soon reduce the incidence of malaria at this critical section of the highway.

#### TYPHUS

"In its tragic relationship to mankind," said Hans Zinsser, "the disease of typhus is second to none—not even to plague or to cholera." In most major wars of the past more persons have succumbed to typhus than have fallen on the battlefield—and Zinsser speaks of "the relative unimportance of generals." Whether a similar disaster will accompany this war we do not know, but typhus is now active in many parts of Europe. Epidemics are building up in southern Spain. Other known focuses of the disease are in Poland, Rumania and the neighboring countries, whence it may be expected to spread in disastrous epidemics as the result of conditions imposed by prolonged warfare.

In spite of the fact that it is an age-old problem, our basic knowledge regarding this disease is far from adequate. We know in a general way that it is spread from person to person by means of the body louse and that it develops rapidly with devastating results when people are crowded together under unsanitary conditions and when there is a heavy louse infestation. We also know that in most instances one attack confers lifelong immunity, and we have certain rudimentary knowledge regarding the prevention of its spread by such measures as general delousing and quarantine. But we do not know how

<sup>1</sup> From the Review for 1941 of the Rockefeller Foundation by President Raymond B. Fosdick.

<sup>1</sup> Chapter LXVI, "Petronius: The Satyricon." Translated by J. M. Mitchell. London: J. M. Rutledge and Sons, Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1923.