

Paul Thompson

INSPECTING AN IMMIGRANT'S BAGGAGE IN THE SEARCH
FOR POSSIBLE TYPHUS CARRIERS

the Federal Reserve Banking law "must not be used to squeeze the debtor by deflation processes," and the extension of the Farm Loan Bank Law.

FIGHTING TYPHUS FEVER

THE best-informed medical and sanitary experts believe that there is no danger of an epidemic of typhus fever in this country. This belief is founded on the assumption that thorough precautions are taken, first to keep it out altogether, if possible, and, secondly, to guard against centers of infection wherever a few sporadic cases may spring up.

Typhus, as most people know, is a disease communicable almost solely, if not solely, through body lice. It becomes epidemic under conditions of starvation, filth, and physical exhaustion. It is therefore almost certain to become epidemic in countries ravaged by war and reduced by lack of food to a poverty-stricken condition rendering proper sanitation and health measures impossible.

A comparatively few cases of typhus have been brought to this country from Trieste and other Adriatic ports. The long voyage makes it possible to identify the disease positively, and therefore to quarantine and isolate, when necessary, all immigrants who have been exposed

to the contagion. With thorough cleansing measures and after continued examination, it seems certain that the spread of infection can under the conditions existing in this country be fully prevented. A very few deaths and a small number of cases have been reported in New York State, and a few cases in the States of Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Copeland, the Health Commissioner of New York, appealed at once to the Washington authorities for co-operation. That he certainly should have; National, State, and municipal health and police authorities should work together with the utmost vigilance and in unanimity. Dr. Copeland has charged laxity at Ellis Island and at Boston and other ports, and has stopped immigrants who have been forwarded by rail still infested with vermin. The task of examining, cleaning, and watching many hundreds of immigrants is enormous and space and facilities must be increased.

There is no such menace from typhus as we used to fear in the past from yellow fever and cholera. The nature of the disease and the advance of medical science in dealing with it make it highly improbable that there will be a disastrous epidemic. There is no cause for alarm, much less for panic. There is every reason for thorough measures of protection and watchfulness.

A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE

THERE is more mystery than cause for alarm in the so-called sleeping sickness, or *encephalitis lethargica*, as the doctors call it. It is true that there have been some scores of cases of this disease, or at least cases which were so classified locally, during the winter. In New York City, for instance, the Health Department registered one hundred and eighty-seven cases and forty-eight deaths between January 1 and February 15. Elsewhere, both in the East and the Middle West, a comparatively few cases have been reported here and there. There has been nothing, however, that can be called an epidemic, and physicians generally do not seem to anticipate an epidemic.

Dr. Scherechewsky, Assistant Surgeon-General of the Federal Public Health Service, is reported as saying that the danger of having sleeping sickness and dying of it is only about one in one hundred as compared with pneumonia, and it is far less communicable than pneumonia, so that there is really no cause for general alarm.

What is known positively about the disease is that it appears only in the colder months of the year and that it has nothing whatever to do with the tropical disease called sleeping sickness, which is propagated by the bite of the South African tsetse fly. Dr. Simon Flexner, who is an authority on the disease, has stated in a printed paper that the sleeping sickness in this country can be traced indirectly to an epidemic in Vienna five years ago. For some time physicians were inclined to ascribe the cause of the disease to that form of food poisoning known as *botulism*. This theory has now been discarded. Dr. Flexner believes that the cause is quite independent of diet and that "it is probably of a microbic origin and of a communicable nature." Other authorities agree in this and declare that it is a nose and throat disease; naturally, therefore, appearing in winter. It is not contagious in the ordinary sense, as is shown by the fact that it is a very rare thing indeed for more than one case to occur in one family.

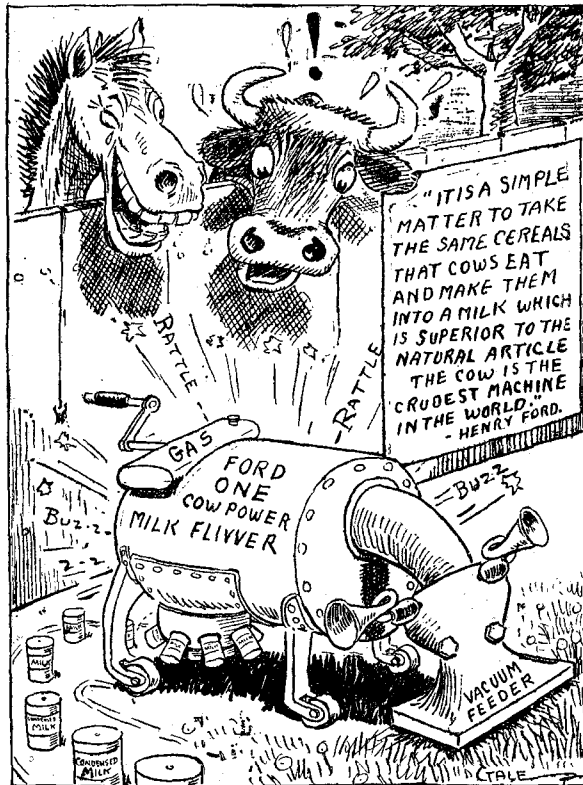
The precautions recommended are those which are generally applicable to careful health preservation in winter-time, such as being in the open air a good deal, keeping away so far as possible from persons with colds, dressing warmly, and avoiding crowds and bad ventilation.

The disease derives its common name from the fact that the person affected falls into a condition of drowsiness and sometimes remains asleep or in a semicomatose condition for days at a time, falling asleep sometimes in the midst of

FOOD, DRINK, AND ECONOMY

CARTOONS SELECTED BY OUTLOOK READERS

Ctale in the Los Angeles Daily Times



DO WE HEAR A HORSE LAUGH?

From H. F. Clark, Los Angeles, Cal.

Cheney in the London Weekly Dispatch



THE SPOIL-SPORT

Youth: "Drat the girl! She's gone and brought her mother with her."

From Mrs. Daniel Child, Stanford Bridge, Worcester, England

Knott in the Dallas Morning News



THE CAT WITH 9,000 LIVES IS DROWNED AGAIN

From Major I. J. Nichol, Dallas, Texas

Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle



IT'S A TOUGH JOB, EVEN FOR AN ELEPHANT, WHEN THE WEEDS GET A BIG START!