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DEADLY MOSQUITO WIPED OUT IN BRAZIL

Rockefeller Foundation Head
Reports Victory in 10-Year
War on African Insect

YELLOW FEVER PUT DOWN

Dr. Fosdick Also Tells How
Scientists Solved Mystery
of Disease in Jungles

Success by the Rockefeller Foundation in its endeavors to halt the spread of the malaria-carrying gambiae mosquito and of yellow fever in Brazil, and the preparation of more than a million doses of yellow fever vaccine for the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the United States Army and the United States Public Health Service, are described by Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, president of the foundation, who made public yesterday a part of his report reviewing the 1940 activities of the institution, established "for the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

"This dreaded malaria-carrying insect (the Anopheles gambiae mosquito) a native of Africa, was first discovered in 1930 by a member of the staff of the foundation," Dr. Fosdick reports. "Apparently it had come in an airplane or on one of the fast French destroyers which at that time were serving the French air line between Dakar in West Africa and Natal in Brazil. The alarming spread of this African scourge in Northeastern Brazil, and the virulent character of the malaria which it produced, resulted in a systematic campaign carried on by the personnel of the foundation in collaboration with the Brazilian Government.

Staff of 2,000 in Battle

"Dr. Fred L. Soper, representative of the foundation in Brazil, has been in charge of the direction

and administration of the offensive, and a staff of over 2,000 doctors, technicians, scouts, inspectors, guards and laborers have been enlisted in the battle.

Dr. Fosdick also reports success in the unraveling of a baffling yellow fever mystery through the identification of two new mosquito carriers and a new mode of transmission.

It had been believed that the yellow fever virus was carried by the species of mosquito known as Aedes aegypti and that it was transmitted by the mosquito by biting man, who in turn transmitted it to other mosquitos who bit him, thus continuing the mosquito-man-mosquito cycle. A few years ago, however, it was discovered that yellow fever existed in South American jungle areas where no Aedes aegypti mosquitos were present. The evidence further indicated that some host other than man served as a factor in the transmission.

After intensive investigations in field laboratories and in expeditions in the jungle, Dr. Fosdick reports, "new light has been thrown on this puzzling situation in 1940."

Two Other Species Virulent

It was found that two other species of mosquitos, known as the sabethine and the haemagogus, also carry the yellow fever virus. Tests on more than 2,000 wild animals captured in the jungle revealed that these mosquitos transmit the disease through the wild animals. "Many species had virus circulating in the blood stream while the animals were running about—a condition especially favorable to the spread of the virus."

The discovery that yellow fever can be transmitted in the jungle by carriers other than the Aedes aegypti mosquito, Dr. Fosdick says, does not minimize the significant part which the aegypti mosquito plays in the distribution of the disease among human beings.

"It is not too much to assert," he adds, "that, if in urban areas this insect were brought under control as it has been in Brazil, the world could avoid the threat which in these days of fast transit might so easily develop into a cataclysm in East Africa, in India and even in the Orient, to say nothing of parts of the Americas, should the virus of yellow fever break through the barriers of quarantine, vaccination and medical vigilance."

At the request of the British Government the Rockefeller Foundation has sent to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan 250,000 doses of the yellow fever vaccine developed in the laboratories of its international health division and is preparing to send an equal amount in the near future, the review says. More than a million doses are being supplied to the United States Army for the vaccination of military personnel, as well as to the United States Public Health Service.