



STILL BRINGING 'EM DOWN—William (Uncle Billy) Lundy, Florida's last surviving Confederate sharpshooter, stands beside proof that his "shooting eye" is still good. He brought down the six-point, 140-pound buck on Eglin Reservation, Fla. Uncle Billy said that shooting the deer "made me feel good, just like I do after taking a good swig of homemade skeeter juice." The 106-year-old veteran goes hunting with his 69-year-old son.

SCIENCE AT WORK

New York — (U.P.) — Disease causing micro-organisms of all kinds live and perpetuate themselves inside the bodies of human beings without the human beings ever knowing it. Yet those micro-organisms are killing other men and women.

Dr. Rene J. Dubos, one of the most distinguished of contemporary medical scientists, based a recent lecture to an audience of doctors on these "perplexing riddles." He didn't have the answers but he thought science should make every effort to get them.

The substance of it is that most if not all human beings do not need to "catch" germs in order to become ill of a disease. They already harbor the germs and have for years. All is well until or unless "something" happens in their chemistry that upsets whatever the "normal conditions" were that allowed a friendly relationship between the "hosts" and their hidden and silent parasites.

Not Nutrition
Whatever that "something" is, it is anything but obvious and simple — it is not "something" which will be easily found or easily understood when it is found. Definitely, nutrition in the ordinary sense is not the "something," he said. More vitamin tablets or fewer or no vitamin tablets at all, have little bearing. This "something" has eluded science so far.

"The problem of latent infections acquire large practical importance from the fact that most infectious diseases in our communities are caused by micro-organisms which are widely distributed among normal, healthy members of the population," he told the 27th annual "Graduate Fortnight" of the New York Academy of Medicine.

He pointed to the "perplexing" riddle of a group of Danish doctors who when confined and starved in a Nazi concentration camp, came down with the common microbial diseases, not with "the exotic, unusual epidemics." It was "remarkable indeed" that these diseases disappeared with little or no treatment when the doctors returned to their normal ways of living.

"Rapid recovery was the rule even in the case of tuberculosis," he said, "though no anti-microbial agent was then available

for its treatment."

Acute starvation unquestionably multiplies the susceptibility of the host to his disease-causing parasites. It points to the cause being an upset in the infinitely complex bodily chemistry of metabolism, by which the food that is eaten and the air that is breathed are broken down and then reconstructed chemically to nurture the cells and keep them healthily functioning. Yet, "surprisingly enough, it is not easy to find any evidence to support the common belief 'that poor nutrition plays an important part,' he said.

"The nutritional factors which have been shown to be essential for growth and reproduction rarely if ever play a decisive and specific role in resistance to infection," he continued. "True enough aggravation of disease has been observed in infected animals fed diets deficient in one or the other vitamin. However, the results have been clear cut only in cases where the vitamin deficiency was so profound as to impair greatly the overall physiological well being of the animals."

He thought it "likely" that the increase of susceptibility caused by starvation resulted from the body's abnormal use of chemical by-products or its metabolic processes, or the accumulation of those products. But the answers to the "perplexing riddles" will come only when new experimental techniques have been developed. Present techniques have failed.



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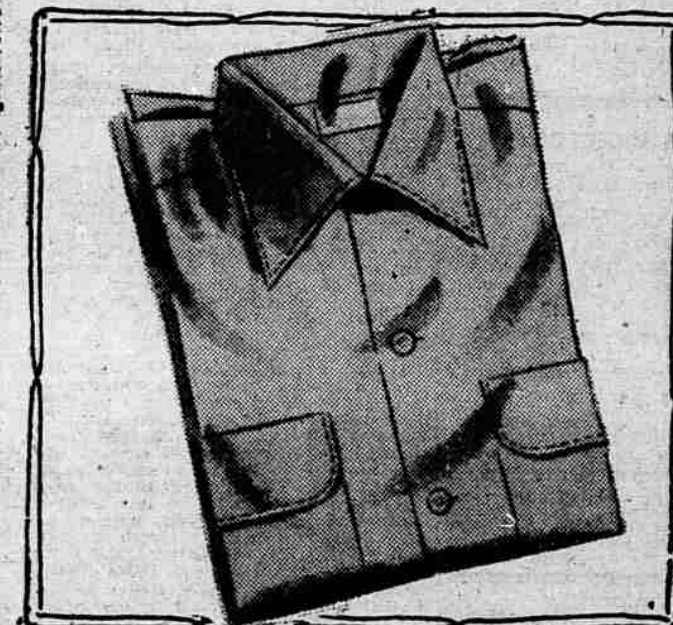
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