

In any settled region the rat population is essentially the same as the human population. Ten years ago, it was estimated from careful studies that each rat consumed food to the cost of \$2.00 each year and that he spoiled ten times as much more. In the present mild inflation, this means that each rat costs about \$30.25 each year. Multiply this sum by 25000, a low estimate on the number of our rats in this county, and we have \$756,250.00. This would easily build us two new court houses each year.

COLDS

One of the trends in medical nomenclature (accent on second syllable) is to become more specific. Thus: in the memory of numerous people now living "Inflammation of the Bowels" has become "Appendicitis" and at least nine other diseases, all separately described and recognizable. Eczema (accent on the first syllable) has been restricted by the recognition and naming of so many of its protean manifestations that what remains is almost synonymous with "I don't know" or the more dignified but equally uninforming "G.O.K.", (God only knows) used in some hospitals. "Cold" is such a name for a disease or a group of diseases. This name is applied to less and less as time goes on, but the group remains in status quo. Reminds one of Shakespeare's lines about names.

I cannot begin with a definition of the common cold much as I would like to. Apparently not all colds are exactly alike. They vary much from time to time and from person to person. Epidemics of colds are often seen. Some of these are dignified with special names--such as "Rose Cold", etc.

No one agent or circumstance seems to cause all colds. Food deficiencies, vitamin imbalance, bacteria, pollens, dust, exposure, viruses have, singly and in combinations, been set up and discussed as causing colds. Even the mental and emotional condition seems to have something to do about it or with it.

Are colds contagious? Apparently some of them are, and it passes from one person to another by actual or near actual contact. So far as known such contact is effective only when made on mucous membrane--not on the skin. This means that if you must kiss your child or some other friend while you have a cold, do it on his forehead or the back of his neck. Also avoid staying long with him in a small closed place.

In the general prevention of each there are two widely divergent systems of practice,-- a. seeks to build up a resistance by using all the known factors including that of fractional natural vaccinations, so great that no reasonable exposure will produce an appreciable effect and b. seeks to avoid all exposures and conditions known to promote colds. In the whole population, they are about equally successful or unsuccessful. The "a" group becomes rugged, careless of health precautions and completely devoid of cold consciousness, whereas the "b" group becomes softer each year, is over cautious about health and gets to be painfully and annoyingly cold conscious. The great mass of people to which most of us belong do not think or do much about it either way. Maybe we should!

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