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THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
49 WEST 49TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 2nd 1943.

Brigadier General Leon A. Fox,
Director United States of America
Typhus Commission.

Dear General Fox:

I was sorry to learn that you had been through our fair city a few days ago without getting in touch with our group to get and give what news there is in the field of typhus research and control. However, I have just learned that direct connections can be established through Dr. Reekie and am taking advantage of it to hand you herewith a copy of the preliminary report on results here up to the 24th of August..... Additional information is now available on counts made on August 26th and 27th on prisoners in Groups 1,2, and 3. Only one louse, an adult, was found in Group 1 (GNB) and none were found in the two MYL groups...At the same time an offer was made to the numerous prisoners of group four who were in the compound at the time counts were made on the 26th of one cigarette for each louse which could be produced from their own clothing. No exchange of cigarettes for lice occurred although cigarettes, and especially ^{any} cigarettes are most highly prized!

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Although attempts have not yet been made to work in the native villages here, those who know the local mores insist that it will be completely impossible to powder the native population by removal of all garments. To meet this situation and also with the idea of speeding up the application of powder to those who are quite willing to disrobe, initial tests of an agricultural dusting machine were made about two weeks ago. This machine is one devised for spreading a fine small cloud which should settle slowly on the leaves of the plants to be dusted and has a stiff though flexible delivery tube. These tests showed that, although the machine used delivers powder too slowly for rapid use, that distribution of powder on the inner surfaces of the garments can be gotten with relative ease by inserting the delivery tube up the sleeves down the back up the legs and down the neck. Lt. Col. Stone has been advised of these results and has promised to have a knapsack Paris green duster here for testing by the end of this week. In the meantime, comparative tests on the killing effect of hand and machine dusting have been started at the prison where we are working and a request has been sent to the United States to make tests on different types of dusters to be had there.

Please remember us all to the group working on typhus under your direction.

Sincerely yours,

Fred L. Soper.