

individuals in a group. The desirability of doing this is indicated by results of "progeny tests" made on a large number of pines, in selected spots in twelve states and British Columbia. A wide variation was found in the growth vigor of seedling offspring of different trees.

There appears to be a falling off in vigor in seedlings of trees growing at high altitudes. However, Mr. Austin reported two trees growing high in the mountains whose seedlings showed great vigor of growth. Since high-altitude trees must needs be hardy, he suggested that these two parent trees may become the founders of tree "families" notable for both hardiness and vigor.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1932

PUBLIC HEALTH

Experts To Investigate Leprosy in Hawaii

WHETHER or not the federal government should establish a leper colony in Hawaii similar to the one at Carville, La., will be determined as a result of investigations now being made in Hawaii by three experts of the U. S. Public Health Service. Dr. J. C. Perry, Dr. J. W. Kerr and Dr. G. W. McCoy have been instructed by Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming to study the situation in Hawaii.

The U. S. Public Health Service, in cooperation with the Territorial Government, has since 1905 been operating a station for scientific study of leprosy at Kalihi, T. H. In the course of these studies, many of which have been on the effectiveness of various derivatives of chaulmoogra oil for treatment of the disease, active cases of leprosy are actually treated. However, the station is not able to treat all lepers who may apply, as is done free of charge for lepers in the United States at the colony at Carville. The famous Hawaiian leper hospital at Molakai is less a treatment center and more a custodial home, the U. S. Public Health Service explained.

There is so much leprosy in Hawaii that life is said to revolve around the disease and its problems. Almost every family is affected. The disease is mixed up with the social and political life of the country, and is a normal part of the life of all Hawaiians. Consequently the three federal health officers have a big task ahead to make a real study of the situation and have their report ready by December first when Congress convenes.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1932

Something

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