

A PLEA FOR JOHN R. KISSINGER.

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John Kissinger enlisted in the Indiana National Guard July 28, 1897, and became a member of Company D, the 157th Indiana Volunteer of United States Army, May 10, 1898. He was discharged November 1, 1898. On November 15, 1898, he enlisted in the Hospital Corps, U. S. A., and was discharged November 14, 1901.

When the United States occupied Cuba, a commission of medical officers including Doctors Reed, Carroll, Lazear and Agramonta, was sent to find out the means by which yellow fever is transmitted. The work of these medical officers is known in a general way. But little is known of the first volunteer who permitted female mosquitoes of the genus *Stegomyia* to bite him. This person is John R. Kissinger, now living at Huntington, Indiana, R. R. 8. With a class in public health, I visited his home on this November 5, where he told us about that human experiment which resulted in the gradual restriction and control of yellow fever.

Mosquitoes which had bitten yellow fever patients were permitted to bite Kissinger. In a few days he came down with a chill. The first forenoon he felt fairly well but did not get up. At 4 p. m. he became worse with a fever of 102 which remained constant. When delirious, Doctor Reed fed 120 mosquitoes on his body.

With efficient nursing and constant care of Doctor Reed, Kissinger seemingly recovered. While yet sick many visiting surgeons came and studied his case. His tent became a clinic. After he had gained strength, the doctors injected into his body, blood from yellow fever patients to see if he were immune. John Kissinger feels that his body probably would have come through successfully had he been subjected only to the disease.

In 1906, he became helpless and for the past 21 years has not been able to do any kind of work to earn wages. He fought against the pension when health failed; he did not give in his record. Through efforts of his wife and friends, information was given and he was called before the pension board.

In 1911, the government granted him a pension of \$100 per month. This has been their only support. They, needless to say, have not been able to save anything. He made two attempts to buy property but failed. Before coming to Huntington, he and his family lived at South Bend, Ind., Homer, Mich., and Anderson, Ind. Since June, 1927, they have lived at Huntington, in a house bought and presented to them by a fund raised through the efforts of Prof. James E. Peabody, of New York, and the American Association of Medical Progress, New York City.

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The upkeep of this modern home takes a little more of the \$100 per month than did the upkeep of a rented one. This man has the minimum amount of bread and butter at the hands of our government to whom he gave himself that others might not have yellow fever. A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives during the sixty-ninth Congress for the relief of Mrs. Lazear, Carroll and Reed, and John Kissinger. Do we not owe it to our neighbor and co-worker in science to inform our congressmen whom we might know, as to the neglect and need of John R. Kissinger?