3. Van Peenen PF, Koesharjono C, See R, Bourgeois AL, Irving GS. Antibodies against murine typhus in sera from Indonesians. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg. 1977;71:297–9. DOI: 10.1016/0035-9203-(77)90103-1
4. Light RH, Nasution R, Van Peenen PF. Leptospirosis in febrile hospital patients in Djakarta. Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health. 1971;2:493–5.
5. Laras K, Cao BV, Bounlu K, Nguyen TK, Olson JG, Thongchanh S, et al. The importance of leptospirosis in Southeast Asia. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2002;67:278–86.
6. Ellis RD, Fukuda MM, McDaniel P, Welch K, Nisalak A, Murray CK, et al. Causes of fever in adults on the Thai-Myanmar border. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2006;74:108–13.
7. Suttinont C, Losuwanaluk K, Niwatayakul K, Hoontrakul S, Intaranongpai W, Silpasakorn S, et al. Causes of acute, undifferentiated, febrile illness in rural Thailand: results of a prospective observational study. Ann Trop Med Parasitol. 2006;100:363–70. DOI: 10.1179/136485906X112158
8. Terpstra WJ, Ligthart GS, Schoone GJ. Serodiagnosis of human leptospirosis by enzyme-linked-immunosorbent-assay (ELISA). Zentralbl Bakteriol A. 1980;247:400–5.
9. Victoria B, Ahmed A, Zuerner RL, Ahmed N, Bulach DM, Quinteiro J, et al. Conservation of the S10-spc-alpha locus within otherwise highly plastic genomes provides phylogenetic insight into the genus *Leptospira*. PLoS One. 2008;3:e2752. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0002752
10. Phongmany S, Rolain JM, Phetsouvanh R, Blacksell SD, Soukkhaseum V, Rasachack B, et al. Rickettsial infections and fever, Vientiane, Laos. Emerg Infect Dis. 2006;12:256–62.
11. Watt G, Parola P. Scrub typhus and tropical rickettsioses. Curr Opin Infect Dis. 2003;16:429–36. DOI: 10.1097/00001432-200310000-00009
12. Ibrahim IN, Okabayashi T, Ristiyanto, Lestari EW, Yanase T, Muramatsu Y, et al. Serosurvey of wild rodents for rickettsioses (spotted fever, murine typhus and Q fever) in Java Island, Indonesia. Eur J Epidemiol. 1999;15:89–93. DOI: 10.1023/A:1007547721171
13. Richards AL, Rahardjo E, Rusjdi AF, Kelly DJ, Dasch GA, Church CJ, et al. Evidence of *Rickettsia typhi* and the potential for murine typhus in Jayapura, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2002;66:431–4.
14. Dupont HT, Brouqui P, Faugere B, Raoult D. Prevalence of antibodies to *Coxiella burnettii, Rickettsia conorii,* and *Rickettsia typhi* in seven African countries. Clin Infect Dis. 1995;21:1126–33.
15. Jiang J, Soeatmadji DW, Henry KM, Ratiwayanto S, Bangs MJ, Richards AL. *Rickettsia felis* in *Xenopsylla cheopis*, Java, Indonesia. Emerg Infect Dis. 2006;12:1281–3.

Address for correspondence: Jiri F.P. Wagenaar, Department of Internal Medicine (9B), Slotervaart Hospital, Louwesweg 6, 1066 EC Amsterdam, the Netherlands; email: jfpwagenaar@hotmail.com

etymologia

Typhus

[ti′ fəs]

From Greek τῖφος [*typhos*], meaning heavy stupor; also related to Greek *typhein*, to smoke. A disease known since antiquity, typhus has been described as follows: "A kind of continued fever, attended with great prostration of the nervous and vascular systems, with a tendency to putrefaction in the fluids and vitiation in the secretions; putrid fever. A genus of the order *Febres*, class *Pyrexia*, of Cullen's nosology" (J. Thomas, 1885).

Today, typhus refers to any of a group of acute infections caused by rickettsiae and transmitted to persons by the bite of arthropods such as fleas and lice. Epidemic typhus, caused by *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is characterized by headache, high fever, chills, rash, and, in serious cases, by stupor or lack of awareness of reality. Outbreaks usually occur in crowded or unsanitary environments.

Source: Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary, 31st ed. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2007; http://www.merriam-webster.com; Thomas J. A complete pronouncing medical dictionary. Philadelphia: JB Lippincott; 1885.