

# You Cannot Catch 'Kissing Disease' By Kissing Anyone

It used to be known as the "kissing disease," until somebody discovered that you could catch it without kissing anybody. Faced with this negative outlook, a doctor with a true instinct for research decided to conduct a study at West Point.

Presently he reported that "cadets who came down with mononucleosis had usually been kissing a girl who was infected with the disease."

"By kissing," he added,

"I don't mean a peck on the cheek but kissing of more than filial intensity." (After all, if you must get sick. . .)

The problem of mononucleosis, actually, isn't all fun and osculation by any means.

It's a disease that incapacitates young people for extended periods with severe sore throat, glandular swelling, general weakness, sometimes jaundice, often mental and emotional depression.

One researcher, Dr. Kenneth Rose, has called it "the single most important disabling disease of the young adult." And it seems to be on the increase.

Mononucleosis is full of mysteries. Despite general agreement that it's contagious, the guilty organism so far hasn't been positively identified.

And nobody has the answer to another question: why are some people resistant to the disease while others are vulnerable?

Treatment consists of corticosteroid drugs, tender loving care (no kisses, please), and assurances to the patient that, despite all his doubts, he's going to get well.

The disease, in fact, is never fatal. Hospitalization is seldom needed, but a doctor definitely is.