

WILL WAGE WAR ON FLIES

VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN TO BE INSTITUTED BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT THIS SUMMER

THE United States Government is embroiled in another war. This time it has opened hostilities on the common enemy of mankind, the fly, and one of the most important branches of the National machinery, the Agricultural Department, will devote itself to the extermination of the pestiferous insects, without regard to class or previous condition. No quarter will be offered, and the campaign in Mandanaw will be a holiday excursion compared to the war on the fly.

It will be remembered, no doubt, that in recent years the Agricultural Department has made a specialty of studying the diseases distributed by insects, the mosquito being put under the ban some time ago. Summer tourists in Jersey may allege that they are troubled fully as much as of yore, but the Government experts ask only a little more time, they hope, eventually, to be able to reduce the inroads of the mosquito to sporadic outbreaks. And the investigations have resulted in more good than a partial extermination of the insects. They have taught people something about the various diseases transmitted by these minute pests, and have inculcated the necessity of caution as a means of preventing the spread of yellow fever, malaria and similar diseases.

Now, the division of entomology, which has had charge of all the campaigns against insect pests, will turn its attention to the flies. Literature has been prepared and methods of extermination have been devised under the supervision of Dr. O. L. Howard, the chief of the division. Already thousands of pamphlets have been put into the hands of health boards and farmers throughout the country. The necessity has been urged of having better sanitation in the rural districts. Chemistry has been invoked as a result of various experiments it is thought that the number of flies will be rapidly and enormously lessened during the present summer.

The literature sent out by the Government will give to the people some information concerning flies that hitherto has been in the possession of the scientist almost exclusively. It will dispel the illusion that the common housefly bites, but it will also call attention to the fact that this insect, the "Musca Domestica," is a dangerous creature, even if he cannot give human beings those tantalizing little stings with which he has been credited. Dr. Howard has the following to say about flies and the campaign he is preparing to wage:

Spreading of Disease.
"So much is said nowadays of the carriage of a certain class of diseases by mosquitoes that the agency of flies in the transmission of another class of diseases is apt to be overlooked. The malarial germ has to pass through the body of certain mosquitoes before attaining its highest development or its full life history. So far as we know, as yet, mosquitoes are secondary elements in the development of this disease germ. The malarial germ, for instance, is an animal organism. It belongs to the group known as protozoa, and from analogy it is altogether likely that the as yet undiscovered germ of yellow fever will also prove to belong to the same class of parasitic organisms.

"The parasite which causes Typhoid fever in cattle is also analogous to the minute worm which causes malaria in human beings. It inhabits the blood just as does the malarial parasite, and is conveyed by the biting insect.

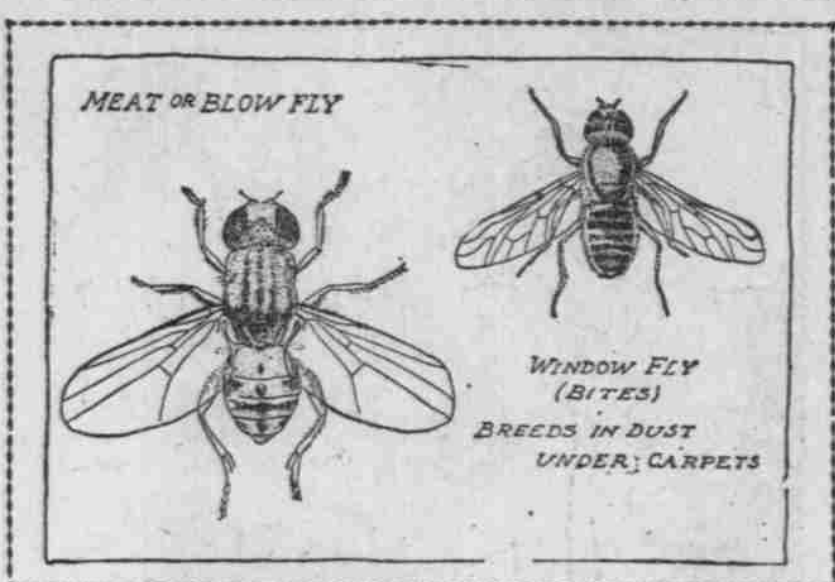
"With disease caused by bacterial organisms (which belong to the plant kingdom and not to the animal kingdom) a biting insect is not necessary for their transfer from the sick individual to the healthy one in the majority of cases. Such diseases are notably typhoid fever, cholera, and pulmonary consumption, with these diseases, and especially the first two, the agency of the nonbiting flies becomes important. These flies play in the transmission of typhoid fever is particularly noticeable. It has been known for some time that flies may carry bacilli and bacteria on their feet. That was experimentally proved by allowing flies to walk over culture, for later, when they walked over sterilized media, the bacteria developed. Moreover, as early as 1888, it was shown by an Italian investigator that flies fed upon cultures of typhoid bacilli were able to transmit virulent bacilli. Again, early observations demonstrated that conditions which insects play in the transmission of Asiatic cholera.

Flies and Typhoid Fever.
"Typhoid fever, as will be remembered, doubtless, was astonishingly prevalent in the military camps of this country during the war with Spain. At that time the disease received a thorough investigation at the hands of a special commission of Army surgeons appointed for the purpose. It was shown that, although excellent preventive measures had been recommended in the circulars issued by the Surgeon-General of the Army, these instructions were not carried out. Flies swarmed over the infected flies that accumulated around a camp, and then proceeded to the mess tents and fed upon the food prepared in the dining-rooms. Thus, by the agency of flies, it was discovered and proved beyond a doubt, disease germs were spread and carried to the food of the soldiers.

"For some time past I have been carrying on an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining what flies breed in refuse of various sorts, and conversely, just what flies are breeding in dining-rooms and kitchens where food is being prepared and served. These investigations I have conducted with the greatest care and in different parts of the country. In this way a large amount of material has been gathered. Briefly summarized, we have found that the number of species of insects which breed in filth containing germs is very large, not less in fact than 41 species of beetles and 77 species of flies. Some of these are scarce, and others are abundant, but all are more or less dangerous as carriers and transmitters of disease.

"Now, in the experiments carried on in order to ascertain exactly which ones of these are important in the disease-spreading function, more than 250 flies were caught in kitchens and dining-rooms in different parts of the country from Massachusetts to California, and from New York to Louisiana. It was proved that the flies are breeding in filth six species were found in houses in sufficient numbers to render them dangerous. There are other dangerous species which do not make their rendezvous in kitchens or dining-rooms.

"At the head of these six varieties must stand the common house fly. This insect constituted more than 80 per cent of the whole number of flies captured in kitchens and dining-rooms. While it was by no means one of the species most commonly captured in garbage and other refuse, it was shown conclusively that under certain conditions this insect may be a factor of the greatest importance in the spread of intestinal diseases. In the most cleanly and best cared for portions of a large city these conditions are, of course, not met. The admirable water supply and sewerage systems in such localities obviate to a large measure typhoid transfer possibilities. Yet even in such places the danger may exist when the vessels used in a kitchen



room are not promptly disinfected, and by reason of neighboring stables flies are especially abundant.

"But in army camps, where filth is left exposed and in small towns and about farmers' houses, where sewage facilities are lacking, the house fly is a constant source of danger. Moreover, in the low quarters of a great city where there is lax sanitary supervision, in the open lots surrounded by an ignorant population, refuse is frequently deposited in the open, sometimes in close proximity to kitchens, and thus may be a constant source of disease.

The House Fly Does Not Bite.
"The musca domestica does not bite. On account of the structure of its mouth parts this is a physical impossibility. But it is none the less dangerous for that reason. While it does not inoculate the individual as the mosquito does, it is a most active agent in the transmission of disease because it communicates the germs to the food eaten by people. In certain sections of the country there is a common idea that flies bite before a rain. This is true, but it is not the house fly that does the biting. It is the stable fly (Stomoxys calcitrans), which has a particularly exasperating bite, which is a particularly dangerous pest. This is the fly which is gathered in one spot and treated to chloride of lime, the experiment proving so successful that the number of house flies in the whole neighborhood has been lessened to a remarkable extent.

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"Third—The low quarters of a city, the especial attention of boards of health should be directed to such open deposits, and such disposition of filth should be considered a punishable misdemeanor, and the regulation vigorously enforced.

"Fourth—Every effort should be made by boards of health in cities and by private persons in the country to limit the breeding of the common house fly, in addition there should be a strict supervision of stables in which horses are kept.

"I have found by careful experimental work with different insecticidal sprays, stances that chloride of lime is the most efficient thing that can be applied to filth accumulations in such places, but the trouble of the chloride of lime is rather expensive. In order to economize the matter and make the lime go as far as possible, I have suggested in the literature that I am now sending out that every stable proprietor and farmer make an effort to collect refuse of this character in one spot. This is what we have done at the stable of the Department of Agriculture, where the refuse of the stable is gathered in one spot and treated to chloride of lime, the experiment proving so successful that the number of house flies in the whole neighborhood has been lessened to a remarkable extent.

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SCRAP BOOK

Jennie Morrison.
I've wandered east, I've wandered west,
Through many a weary way,
But never, never can I forget
The love of life's young day!
The first time I saw you, Jennie,
My heart was black as night;
But blacker far awaits the heart
When first fond love grows cold.

O dear, dear Jennie Morrison,
The thought of bygone years
Still fling their shadows over my path,
As if the sun had never set;
They blind my eyes with sweet tears,
And sail and sink I pine,
As memory's sweetest dream
The blithe blithe of long ago!

'Twas then we loved like other weal,
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Sweet time, and time; two hearts at one,
Two hearts, and but one heart;
'Twas then we sat on the grassy bank,
To talk of life and love;
And tones and looks and smiles were shed,
Remembered evermore.

I wonder, Jennie, again yet,
When sitting on that bank,
Cheek to cheek, and hand in hand,
What our hearts were then;
When with bent down over a book page,
We'd talk of life and love;
Thy lips were on my lips, then,
My lesson was in thee.

O, mind ye how we hung our heads,
How cheeks were red with shame,
When we'd be scolded, Jennie, said,
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How cheeks were red with shame,
When we'd be scolded, Jennie, said,
We'd eke out together;
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