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Swat a Fly and Save a Life

By LEONARD KNEE HIRSHBERG, A. B., M. D.

If every child and adult American were today to adopt the slogan, "Swat a fly and save a life," the health bulletins issued next summer from the various sanitary boards throughout the country would have sparse reference to such causes of death as cholera infantum, typhoid fever and the numerous infantile maladies of the torrid months.

If you wait until spring or summer to kill your ubiquitous fly, it will be too late. The single isolated fly that survives the frosts of winter and the vigilance of the housefrau, the musca domestica that lies hidden in the rafters of your cellar and pantry, "unfed, unheralded and unsung," is the hibernating villain who breeds multitudes of baby flies within two weeks of the first pleasant day this side of Easter.

Herbert Spencer claimed that a codfish must needs lay one million eggs in order to have two embryo codfish grow up to marital age. In other words, for every million intended to cod, only two reach maturity, able to propagate the species. Personally I have no knowledge of how many gradations of larger fish there may be that gobble up the cod's eggs. This I do know, however: there are few larger flies to devour the eggs of the manure fly.

The fly roams about his ocean of detectable atmosphere without fear of other and larger flies. When a mild day in March entices a lady fly from a dark crevice in the kitchen or pantry, she hies herself sluggishly forth to some barn or outhouse and lays her early hatch of spring eggs in some nearby manure or other warm refuse matter. Here her 200 eggs, or less, of her first 1912 generation will remain undisturbed for six to eight hours. Then the white, pointed larvae, called maggots, hatch out. These soon pass into what is technically called the pupal. Other investigators have confirmed not only the fact that typhoid is spread by flies, but almost all bacterial diseases, especially the summer maladies of babyhood.

"Children die like flies," in August and July, was formerly a common remark; but our city boards of health are now attacking the fly in its last stronghold, to wit, the stable, manure pit and city slaughter houses. As the abattoirs are now built, with stone stalls, sheds and pits, easily flushed

and sterilized; as the automobile garage has displaced the stable, cowshed and piles of street manure, the fly has been driven, like the American Indian, into the less-civilized neighborhoods.

Flies, like mosquitoes, do not stroll far from their own firesides. The rambling fly, like the rolling stone, gathers no moss. They die or are devoured by lurking enemies if they go much beyond the confines of stable, outhouse or nearest human domicile. It is therefore easy, even in May and June, to rid your home of flies. For, like the old Romans, whose homes each had their own penates, or family god, each American house has its own fly retainers. These latter rarely go upon a forage next door. Like your dog or cat, they stay with you to the end.

How simple it is then in March or April to anticipate your poor fly-relations of next summer must be apparent to every school child. "Swat the fly" today and be free of screens, annoyances and cuss words on the Fourth of July. Each fly roused now from its winter content will save you a summer of a million discontents, not to mention the possible prevention of some child's fatal illness or your being laid low with typhoid.

Let every child and man, every housewife and school girls, set about the complete annihilation of flydom. It is neither an Arcadian nor is it by any manner of means an Himalayan task. Country districts and agricultural communities can do it even more easily than city folks. It is only necessary to educate them to the point that each fly caught, killed and incinerated means 200 less flies next week, or, to be accurate, in ten days. All manure—and let us not be modest and omit the right name—must be stored in covered pits and cleaned away every five or six hours. No decaying meats, flesh, food or dung can be allowed to remain standing.

Fly traps, hand-catching and other contrivances should be set now before spring, with its fly-enticing days upon us. Civic bodies, health departments and public school commissioners should at once start their crusades against flies by cash prizes or other incentives. If this work is seriously inaugurated now, it will not be utopian or too much to expect a flyless 1912.

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COTTAGE GROVE DRUG-GIST DESERVES PRAISE

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Horse Outgrows Its Stall.

The story of how the railroad has outgrown its swaddling clothes has been told hundreds of times, but here is a new one that comes from the Sacramento Division of the Southern Pacific, of the horse that has outgrown its stall in the stable. This story, however, is about an iron horse and it refers particularly to the new, mon-

found that they are too large to fit into the stalls that had been built years ago for the locomotives of that period, therefore there is now before the officials of the railroad the problem of enlarging the stalls, and in some instances, the roundhouses. The length of these new Southern Pacific engines, including the tender, is nearly 106 feet. They have a tractive power of 94,880 pounds and weighs 616,100 pounds. The engineer's cab is located at the head of the locomotive, just the opposite from all other locomotives, for the purpose of enabling the engineer to see clearly and instantly, in rounding sharp curves in the mountainous sections.

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ster locomotives of the Southern Pacific Company that haul the heavy freight trains over the mountain divisions.

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