

WAR ON FLY IS SIZEABLE TASK

Gorgas Institute Launches Eradication Campaign

The housefly is the next foe to health to be singled out by the Gorgas Memorial institute, which proposes devoting much of its energies in conducting a fight on the "national insect" during the rest of the "fly season."

"The common housefly has long been one of man's most annoying and most dangerous pests", said Arthur C. Stringer, associate director of the Gorgas institute. "He is filthy. He is a disease carrier. He is a deadly nuisance."

"The problem of controlling and suppressing the fly nuisance is perhaps more difficult than ridding the country of mosquitoes, since the fly will breed in manure, decayed fruit, garbage pails, or in any other filthy place that will furnish sufficient heat to hatch the eggs. Accordingly the fight against the housefly requires the enlistment in the anti-fly army of every householder, whose sector will be his own premises, which he can guard by keeping it free from all possible breeding places."

"Screening houses should be done by all means, but screening is merely an expedient to combat an evil which will continue to exist so long as there are convenient breeding places. It is necessary, therefore, to go to the source and clean it out, thereby making this a campaign of prevention rather than cure."

The Gorgas Memorial Institute issued the following rules for the "swat the fly" campaign:

Garbage should be burned or if sold to hog feeders, municipal authorities should have control of sanitary conditions.

Sewage should be carefully protected from flies. Where sewer systems are not in use, sewage should be treated with borax, by scattering the powder over the exposed surface two or three

times a week, so as to whiten it. "If these rules are adhered to, the housefly, lacking its customary breeding places, will soon become extinct, since flies seldom if ever live through the winter", said Mr. Stringer. "The increased use of automobiles and steam and electric roads in cities is making the house-fly a small town nuisance, since these modern means of transportation are replacing the horse, the stables and the barnyards, which are

favored places for the housefly. "The importance of these measures can be realized when we consider the diseases which flies are known to carry. Typhoid, dysentery, tuberculosis, cholera, enteritis (inflammation of the intestine) are all known to be carried by flies and there is strong evidence to support the contention that they also carry many other deadly diseases, including anthrax, yaws, apthemia, small pox, and tropical sore."



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