

in fast company and is some field general too. He says Brother Bert used to be a "hum-dinger" back in the 80's but so far has been unable to get him out. The Pottinger boys are both speed-merchants. George has played in senior company at Victoria. Others who have been showing their wares and will round out a nifty outfit are the Baker brothers, Len Mc-Kenzie, Al Kerr, Payne, the Rutledge brothers, Eckley, Mc-Burnie, Thorsteinson Menzies Gillespie and Fraser. Mukk's transfer from No 4 cost us big money

THE FLEA

In this article prominence is given to the FLEA, in the hope that he may be made prominent enough to get a slap at. Not that a slap harms him in the least—rather stimulating that otherwise—but it relieves nervous pressure. A quaint and fictitious American person named David Harum is quoted as remarking that a reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog. In the humble trust that some such philosophy may be fostered among those who have lost faith in Keatings', Boots' and Oil of Wintergreen, these few lines are written.

Historically, the flea dates back to the earliest times. Though no mention of him appears in the limited records we have of outdoor life in the Garden of Eden, such expressions as "The wicked flee", lead one to conclude that the flea was neither unknown nor unappreciated in Biblical times.

Queen Isabella of Spain, whose famous protest against the excessive laundry bills of her time is history, is said to have invented

several new and powerful Aragon oaths in an attempt to do justice to the attentions of several generations of "attached," fleas. The flea is credited with the depopulation of London and several other promising communities, through carelessness in sterilizing his hypodermic.

Botanically speaking, the flea belongs to the order "Leaptera," which embraces the Kangaroo and the Russian Dancer. He is sub-classified with the family of Borers in the same group as the Woodpecker, the Swordfish and the Dentist. The technical name of the Macedonian phantom flea is *Reachforem Nogittem*, which is Latin for "Nobody Home".

The habits of the flea have been the subject of a great deal of investigation, both by members of this Unit and other great scientists. Though we have a limited grasp of the Flea, this much is established, that he gets there, and gets away, and doesn't give a dam. He makes long journeys on the Pullman rat but will travel on the "rods," or "blind," when it suits his purpose. His tastes are epicurean, not to say delicatessen, the tenderest parts of the animal exterior being ham and eggs for him. He pierces the human envelope at any point with a post hole auger and great joy. Like the trader magpie, he leaves as much as he takes and frequently buckshees his host by a lump several times his own size.

Phlebitis is the scientific term for the condition he leaves behind. The bitee experiences a general feeling of being out of luck and a local sensation of a nettle poultice. It is the height of a flea's ambition to bite a lump that has been raised by another flea.