

GOSSIP

THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN THE WORLD

Mr. Daniel D. Jackson, the New York municipal bacteriologist, contributes a very interesting article to the *American Review of Reviews* upon the disease-carrying house-fly, which, he declares, is one of the most dangerous pests in the world. After reading his article and a companion paper that appears in the *American Magazine*, by Mr. Samuel Hopkins Adams, on Injurious Insects, we must almost come to believe that Nero, instead of being gibbeted for killing flies when he was a boy, ought to have been canonized.

Mr. Adams declares that while the mosquito alone kills more than one thousand people annually in the United States, and seriously impairs the health of three million more, this lethal record is far eclipsed by the slaughter done by the common house-fly in propagating typhoid and tuberculosis. Mr. Jackson says the chief specialties of the house-fly are now known to be the transmission of intestinal diseases, typhoid fever, cholera and diarrhoea. But it also may very possibly carry tuberculosis, anthrax, diphtheria, ophthalmia, smallpox and swine fever.

The amount of bacteria that one fly can carry varies from 250 to 6,600,000, and the rapidity with which they accumulate bacteria is phenomenal. Flies have been captured and cleaned, and then allowed to walk over infected material, and one fly captured in New York last summer was found to be carrying in his mouth and on his legs over 100,000 fecal bacteria.

Regarded in the light of recent knowledge, says Mr. Jackson, the fly is more dangerous than the tiger or the cobra, and may easily be classed the world over as the most dangerous animal on earth. It is one of the chief agents in the spread of Asiatic cholera, and is largely responsible for the infection of milk with typhoid fever germs. Mr. Jackson calculates that diseases transmitted through the agency of the house-fly cut short the average span of life in the United States by at least two years. During a generation this means a loss of 4,000,000 lives of the present average length, and a money loss of four thousand millions sterling. In the Spanish war, 1,900 out of 2,100 deaths resulted from typhoid fever communicated by flies.

A vigorous campaign is being opened against the house-fly in New York, and a demand is made for the thorough screening of all public kitchens, restaurants and dining-rooms. As for killing out flies, that is rather a difficult proposition, seeing that one fly lays a hundred and twenty eggs, and at the end of the year the family produced from that single hatching mounts up to sextillions.

In Mr. Adams's paper describing the war upon injurious insects, he points out that the problem for suppressing the noxious ones and fostering the useful ones by the expert culture of insect parasites has become quite a science. Every insect has its own specific enemy or enemies. Ladybirds are invaluable as policemen for extirpating noxious insects. Insect emigration has been the curse of American agriculture. Of the seventy-two destructive insects which destroy millions of dollars annually thirty-five have been imported from abroad. Setting an insect to catch an insect is the science of parasitology.

The moment an imported insect shows signs of becoming formidable, experts trace it from country to country until they find a region where it has been known for a long time, but has never reached the proportions of a pest. In such a place they are pretty sure to find a parasite which is keeping the depredator down. They then import that parasite, and the problem is solved.

The orange orchards of California were simply being wiped out by the Australian scale, but by importing a hundred small red-and-black ladybirds the scale was exterminated in two years. Six ladybirds imported into Egypt have checked the Egyptian scale. The cotton boll-weevil, which arrived in Texas from Mexico, has cost that state over

two and a half millions a year for the last fifteen years. They are fighting them at present by the introduction of the ichneumon fly, which has killed off from fifty to sixty per cent. of the destructive weevil.

In an ordinary year the Hessian fly causes a loss to the wheat crop of the United States, estimated at \$20,000,000 per annum. They have discovered, however, a winged midget, which being imported and colonized, succeeded in destroying the larvae of the Hessian fly. Mr. Adams suggests that wherever a parasite is discovered which is no use in the locality to which it belongs, an inquiry should be made as to where it is needed elsewhere.

The parasite for the house-fly has not yet been discovered. If a parasite could be found that could kill out the house-fly and the mosquito, Mr. Adams estimates that \$300,000,000 annually would not be an over-estimate of the consequent saving in human life and earning power, plus the increased value of real estate.

THRESHING STANDING GRAIN

A Kansas man claims to have invented a machine that will thresh standing grain, that requires simply to be drawn, or, rather, pushed down the field and the grain is harvested, threshed and cleaned for market at one operation. The machine has been tested in small fields, and is said to work satisfactorily.

It resembles a header, and the horses are driven behind the machine. In place of the header sickle there is a cylinder ten inches in diameter. The heads of the grains are driven against this cylinder by the driving blast of an exhaust fan. The grain is then carried back into a cleaner, where it is separated from the chaff, which is carried by an elevator to the sacker. The fan and elevator are run by a gasoline engine. The machine is made of steel and weighs about 2,500 pounds. It takes the same size swath as a header, but travels faster because it does not depend on a barge.

TUXFORD CLYDESDALE IMPORTATION

The *Scottish Farmer* of August 20, contains notice of the shipment of six Clydesdale fillies to Ernest Wilkinson, Tuxford, Sask. The shipment includes a two-year-old, by Sir Hugo, a four-year-old by Earl of Angus, and four two-year-olds sired respectively by Everlasting, Ajax, Baron Winsome and Cinquevalli. The selection is favorably spoken of.

USES OF SAWDUST

Sawdust is usually regarded as an objectionable product because it increases the danger of fire if deposited near mills or lumber piles and necessitates either cartage with accompanying expense or the construction of a "burner" and the use of conveyors or carts to transfer it from the saws. A double economy, however, is now in progress. As a result of the use of band saws instead of the old circular and gang saws, a log that under the old system produced eight boards, will now produce nine, a very substantial increase in product with a corresponding decrease in the amount of sawdust produced.

Owing to its chemical and mechanical properties, it has an ever-increasing field of usefulness. Used as an absorbent for nitro-glycerine, it produces dynamite. Used with clay and burned, it produces a terra-cotta brick full of small cavities that, owing to its lightness and its properties as a non-conductor, makes excellent fire-proof material for partition walls. Treating it with fused caustic alkali produces oxalic acid. Treating it with sulphuric acid and fermenting the sugar so formed, produces alcohol. Mixed with a suitable binder and compressed, it can be used for making mouldings and imitation carvings; while, if mixed with Portland cement, it produces a flooring material. It is an excellent packing material for fragile articles and for dangerous explosives and can be used as packing in walls to make them sound-proof and cold-proof.—Conservation Commission Press Bulletin.

A Model Kitchen

With our forefathers the hearthstone was the centre of the home—the special sphere and pride of the housewife. Here all her talents as a homemaker found full expression. Here before the great hearth—whose flue kept the air as pure and clean as the fresh scoured tiles—she prepared the great white loaves—the delicious flakey brown pastry—the roasts whose juicy tenderness made her simplest meal a feast—

Have a kitchen you can always be proud of—always clean and sweet—always free from stuffy, smelly air—always cool.

Have meals you can always be proud of—everything just browned to a turn—never over-cooked—never under-cooked—always just right.

The Wonderful Oxford Economizer

guarantees such a kitchen—such meals—always.

The Oxford Economizer sucks all the foul air from the room just like the old-fashioned chimney, leaving it sweet and pure.

It gives you an even, steadier fire than ever before known.

It insures the best results in cooking always.

It saves you at least 20% of your coal bill in real dollars and cents.

It is the most remarkable device ever found on a cook stove.

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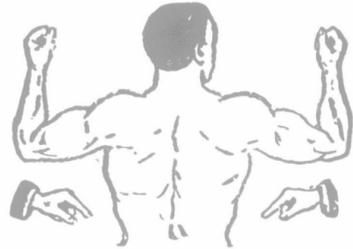
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Dear Sir:—I wish to tell you what your Belt has done for me. When a lad of eighteen years, I was carrying a heavy bag of corn, and somehow or other I must have hurt myself. A pain came on soon after, like a cramp in the stomach, and it was getting steadily worse until I found relief from your Belt. I tried doctors and patent medicines with no benefit. I then read in the papers of your Belts and their wonderful cures. After purchasing one of your Belts I found relief at once, and it has now completely taken the trouble away, and I can now lift anything without feeling that hated pain. My food digests better, and I can now enjoy pleasure, whereas before it was useless to be where it was. I am very well pleased with your Belt, and would like to be a cure for what medicines would not reach. I remain, Yours faithfully, G. HERMAN.



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Hundreds of men are writing me letters like this, men who have been cured right in your neighborhood. Let me furnish you their names, so that you can talk to them personally.

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Do you doubt it? If so, any man or woman who will give me reasonable security can have my Belt, with all the necessary attachments suitable for their case, and they can

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