

resources of the human race." All who have followed the recent progress of the war against those diseases which have kept the tropics closed to civilization will perceive the truth of Lord Robson's statement. In Canada, however, we have not these dread diseases, but we have others serious enough. It is to one only that reference will be made as it is one in which the naturalist is concerned. Next to tuberculosis the most serious of the preventable diseases is infantile diarrhoea. This disease is responsible for a greater mortality among infants than any other preventable disease, and the importance therefore of its prevention is apparent. The high rate of mortality among children in Canada may be realized from the fact that for the four years 1904-7 the average infantile mortality per 1,000 births in Ontario was 149.53, compared with 130.75 in England and Wales, where there is a far greater and more congested population. The greatest factor responsible for the spread of this disease is the house-fly. In my address before this Society twelve months ago I considered at length the relation of house-flies to public health and the means of controlling these insects. In consequence, I shall refer but briefly to this subject which illustrates the bearing entomological knowledge has upon this aspect of public health. Careful investigations by Niven and others have shown that there is a close correspondence between the aggregate number of house-flies in houses and the aggregate number of deaths from diarrhoea week by week and that there is a closer correspondence of diarrhoeal mortality with the number of flies than with any other varying seasonal fact, and that these seasonal facts are capable of interpretation in the number of house-flies. Observations also have shown that flies cluster especially about the noses and mouths of infants suffering from diarrhoea, and their predilection for milk and sugar is well-known. Even though the specific cause of this disease which carries off the lives of thousands of infants in Canada each year is not known, it is enough to know that the house fly is the chief agent in the dissemination of the disease. Milk is also a factor in the spread of the disease and the infection of the milk with the disease germs is largely due to the agency of flies, as it has been shown that the bacterial infection of milk can be reduced about 50% by protecting it from flies. The relation of flies to typhoid fever is now becoming an accepted fact and the house-fly is regarded as one of the most serious menaces to the health of the civilized communities; its abolition and control is rightly coming to be considered a necessary step in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of our cities and towns. Legislation is needed to prevent the exposing of fruit, confectionery and other food supplies to the contact of flies; to ensure that they cannot breed in the usual breeding