

in large groups, but should be isolated as far as possible, where they and their attendants can be preserved from sputum droplet contamination. Flexner suggests the eradication of the diseases in their endemic foci. There are excellent reasons for believing that an endemic focus of poliomyelitis has been established in north-western Europe from which the recent epidemic waves have emanated. Similarly, there are excellent reasons for regarding the endemic home of influenza to be eastern Europe and the borders of Turkestan. A continuous effort at control of these diseases in the regions might be a possible method of attacking the seedbeds of epidemics. Our knowledge is as yet too imperfect, however, for immediate effective action, but Flexner thinks that it is possibly a not unrealizable hope in view of our rapidly advancing knowledge of these diseases. The expense and labor of this world problem cannot be ignored, but the recent epidemic of influenza cost more victims in all probability than did the late war.

THE INSECT PESTS AND THE WAR.

During the recent War, the insect pests constituted a danger as great as the enemy himself, and a danger against which the most vigilance was required. Only by scientific work of the most advanced kind could that danger be met. The scientist was every whit as important to the army as its discipline, its munitions of war, or its commissariat. Of the insects which proved a great menace in the war, may be mentioned the mosquito, the house fly, the flea, the tsetse fly and the louse.

It was urged by both military and civil authorities that the domestic fly was a public danger of the first magnitude, not only to the armies in the field, but also to the people at home. The Army medical authorities took early action and instituted a course of instruction in fly prevention for all medical officers whose duty it then was to act as centres of information and instruction for the men. The medical officers were taught that the chief hope of controlling this insect pest lay in abolishing its breeding places, in other words in strict cleanliness about camps and billets, in the destruction of refuse in incinerators, the burying deeply of refuse which could not be burnt and the treatment of all danger spots so as to insure that the young flies should not be able to reach the surface of the ground. These measures were carried out with the greatest care and energy and there can be no doubt that their adoption was an inestimable boon to the troops on the Western front and in the Eastern theatres.

Much more deadly and dangerous than the fly was the mosquito. The part that mosquitoes played in the War was evident from the severe outbreak of Malaria on the Salonika front in the year 1916. But this