

me when you are in the city, and I will fix it so you can enter."

We have no desire to see such mills as these send their graduates into Canada. We think our friends in the United States could not do better than follow the example of Ontario, and have a Central Examining Board established for the whole country, or for the different States, after the plan of our Medical Council. The best of their Medical Colleges, which will compare favorably with any in the world, would thus get justice, and the country would be protected against such illiterate and incompetent practitioners as are turned out by wholesale, year after year.

SPREAD OF DISEASE BY FLIES.

According to *The Lancet* a discovery has just been made of great importance to those in the neighborhood of consumptive patients. Some flies which had been seen to enter spittoons containing the sputum of phthisical patients were caught and examined, when it was found that they were full of tubercle bacilli. This indicates that the disease may be widely spread by this means.—*Ex.*

This point does not seem perfectly clear. If the tubercle bacilli act as an irritant to the fly, causing processes analogous to emesis or expectoration after the insect has migrated some distance from its feeding-ground; or if the bacilli find a nidus in the tissues of the fly, causing in their host disease and death, then the flies must plead guilty to the charge of *The Lancet*. But if, on the other hand—the ingested bacilli are destroyed during the process of digestion, the part taken by the fly in the spread of this fell disease is much more to the credit of this much-abused insect. It is now in order for some bacteriologist to show whether or not the bacilli are found in an active state in the excreta of flies fed upon tuberculous sputa. The reputation of the fly as a scavenger is at stake.

Nor is the practical bearing of this question so trivial as may at first appear. It is comparatively easy to disinfect the sputa which is collected in the spittoon, but minute particles

of bacillus-laden sputum are scattered in the act of coughing, over the floor, furniture, and bed linen; and, though these may escape the notice of the most scrupulously careful nurse, they are readily detected by the painstaking and industrious fly. In this way, not only in phthisis, but in other infectious diseases, large quantities of septic matter may be destroyed by these little scavengers. Just as the jackal, hyaena, and wild dog, in eastern cities, devour all manner of offal, and thus render innocuous what would otherwise be a source of plague and pestilence, so in our own land large quantities of effete matter are effectively disposed of by flies, cockroaches, and even rats. True, Nature's scavengers are not subject to the authority of the Medical Health Officer, but their work is on that account none the less satisfactorily and systematically performed.

DISEASE OF THE FALLOPIAN TUBES.

Dr. Martin, of Berlin, has presented records of 287 cases of tubal disease in the *Zeitschrift für Geburtshülfe*. The majority were in the most active period of sexual life; 220 were married; 113 had never borne children; 61 had aborted once or oftener. Generally there were other diseases of the pelvic organs, especially endometritis and pelvic peritonitis. Gonorrhœa appeared to be the source of the disease in 55 cases, i.e., in less than 20 per cent. This will not coincide with the records of Tait, Noegerrath, and others, but we think will nearly agree with our experience in Toronto. Affections of the endometrium were the cause in 147 cases; puerperal complications in 70; tubercle in 10; and recent syphilis in 3. The left tube was the most frequently affected. Dr. Martin describes three varieties: "salpingitis catarrhalis" or "endosalpingitis," when there is small-celled infiltration into the mucous membrane; "salpingitis interstitialis," when the infiltration extends into the muscular layer; and "salpingitis follicularis," when we have, in addition to the infiltration of the mucous and muscular layers, the formation of pouches in the mucous membrane which gradually riddle the muscular coat.