

most vital import to the fly and to those stages of its life history through which it passes in hidden preparation for its great adventure, the crowning of its career, its emergence as a fly.

How many people are acquainted with the lives of the things around them? The house-fly is too humble, too common a creature to stimulate thought on its origin, use in life and destiny; we are too concerned, those of us who have time to be concerned, in these questions in their personal relations and the house-fly is dismissed with a word of comment on its power of provocation and possible unknown utility. But public interest does not always slumber. Science disguised as the Prince Charming has at last succeeded in awakening this Princess. The mantle of mystery and veil of ignorance have been torn off, and the house-fly stands alone, known and condemned with clear convincing proof that it must be classed with the mosquito as one of the scourges of man and destroyers of his children. Instead of being the harmless, bright little insect, though annoying by its attentions, it is the embodiment and emblem of filth swathed with the germs of decay.

What are the facts? They are that no house-fly can be caught indoors or out of doors that is not carrying on its legs and body bacteria of all kinds and the spores of moulds and other organisms which accompany decay. No living fly is free from germs: the existence of such would be more than a miracle. Its legs and body, proboscis and wings are covered with small hairs and bristles, so that its legs may be compared to fine bristle brushes; it frequents every kind of filth imaginable and besmirches itself with the microscopic bacteria and other decay-producing organisms of which it cannot possibly rid itself, and flies about a winged and wandering bundle of bacteria. All this might be expected as a result of reasoning alone, but such would not be proof, and the proof is astonishing in its vindication. Any house-fly, whether caught in one's room or out in the open and allowed to walk over a medium suitable for the growth of bacteria and moulds, will deposit the germs of these organisms in its tracks, which in a short time will yield colonies of bacteria and decay-producing fungi. This experiment has been performed times innumerable, and not only does this take place in the warm summer months, but I am able to show you a collection of bacterial fungal colonies obtained from the feet of a fly caught in one of my rooms at the Experimental Farm a few days ago. One of the most interesting and convincing experiments to prove that house-flies normally carry about the spores of fungi and bacteria was made by my friend and colleague, Mr. H. T. Gussow, who caught three flies, the first in his room (in London, England), the second in the street, and the third on a household dust bin.