

been found to vary with the climate. Hewitt has given some striking examples of the effect of weather on the rate of development. The method by which infection is conveyed by flies is mechanical—not unlike that of the inoculating needle. The bacillus is thus conveyed without change from the diseased to the healthy subject. Anthrax bacillus may be thus picked up from a diseased person by the oral organism of the fly and imparted to the abraded surface of a healthy man so as to cause wool-sorter's disease. Plague-bacillus, it is thought, has been carried in the same way—the house-fly, as well as the flea, conveying that dreadful malady from man to man.

That flies disseminate cholera has long since been ascertained. In spreading disease of the eye—an affliction with which Canada has been becoming familiar—there is ample evidence of the fly's participation. A curious proof of the mechanical nature of the infectious process is the fact, discovered by observation, that while the bite (so called) of the tsetse-fly will impart sleeping sickness, the man or animal visited immediately after has immunity—the insertion of the proboscis in the victim's body serving to cleanse the mouth-part which is the instrument of inoculation. It was once believed that the tsetse-fly was confined to the continent of Africa, but this has been disproved by the finding of the little plague in southern Arabia, where it attacks donkeys, horses, dogs and man. Camels and sheep are not troubled by it.

During recent years much attention has been paid to the agency of the house-fly in disseminating bacterial diseases. In spreading such disorders as cholera and enteric fevers, which are caused by micro-organisms, flies have been shown to convey the bacteria from the dejecta of the sick to the food of the healthy. In the South African and Cuban wars a melancholy demonstration of the activity of the too familiar fly in spreading disease and death was brought home to the army physicians. They sometimes even anticipate the exhibition of the disease, performing the task of messenger of fate by carrying the poison from the vicinity of those in whom, though doomed, the virus had not yet declared itself, to those who, but for the fatal assistance, might have escaped infection.

Dr. Veeder reported in his observations some instructive instances of such mediation. Dr. Sandilands, in his remarks on epidemic diarrhœa, says that the course of the disease follows the tem-