

ure, powdered sputum, spores of molds and bacteria.

Flies play an important role as mechanical carriers of disease-germs. They are found in sputum from diseased lungs and throats. They breed in manure piles and refuse of all kinds. Their hairy feet and legs are actually loaded with different types of micro-organisms—many of which are likely to be living bacteria of disease—and these are left wherever flies land. Their presence is distinctly undesirable, to say the least.

Water may prove to be a source of

contamination of foods if it should become polluted. Germs of typhoid fever from feces may find their way into surface water and then into shallow wells. Water thus polluted and used in washing vegetables or fruit that are to be eaten raw is a sure source of danger to health. If the safety of the water is doubtful, it should be analyzed or else boiled.

Persons suffering from diphtheria or tuberculosis, etc., may spread the disease by coming in contact with food materials. Such conditions should not be tolerated.

## Importance of Securing Vigorous Potato Seed Stock

(EXPERIMENTAL FARMS' NOTE.)

Experiments conducted at the Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N.S., with eight lots of Garnet Chili potatoes secured from different growers in 1915 show a variation in yield of from 36 bushels to 240 bushels per acre, or a difference of 204 bushels per acre in yield when grown under uniform conditions. Seed from these eight lots planted in 1916 yielded from 68 bushels to 212 bushels per acre, a difference of 144 bushels per acre. The respective positions of the different lots were changed very little in the second year, but the lowest yielding ones increased somewhat and the highest yield was not so great.

Seed from fifteen others of this variety was planted in 1916 and the lowest yield obtained was 158 bushels and the highest 278 bushels per acre, a difference in favour of the best over the poorest of 120 bushels per acre.

Ten lots of pure stock of Green Mountain from different growers rang-

ed from 180½ bushels per acre to 313 bushels per acre, a difference of 132½ bushels. Seventeen lots of Irish Cobbler ranged from 93 bushels per acre as the poorest to 235 bushels as the best, a difference in favour of the best yielding strain of 142 bushels. This would show that there may be as great a difference between potatoes of the same variety as there is between potatoes of different varieties, and that it is wise to secure stock from farms which have had high yielding crops. Because the Green Mountain has failed in giving a crop on a certain farm is not proof that this variety will not yield well there; it may have been due to low vitality in the seed stock. Such reversion in yield may have been due to disease, or adverse soil or climatic conditions which affected the crop at some time and it may be better to discard the stock entirely than to try to bring it up to its former vitality by selection.