

April and early in June were comparatively free from dangerous bacteria. As the summer season advanced high bacterial counts began to appear and also an abrupt change in the character of the bacteria. The record counts came at the end of the two weeks of excessive heat in July.

Some idea of the number of organisms that a single insect may carry is indicated by the figures 570 to 4,400,000 for the surface contamination, and 16,000 to 28,000,000 for the intestinal bacterial contents. Most of the bacteria found were comparatively harmless. This investigation, however, was carried on in the crowded city, where sewers would naturally carry off all of the most dangerous infective matter. The house fly is an "undesirable citizen" in any event, so that the war of extermination already begun against it in many quarters deserves encouragement and support.

SOME STRANGE CURES FOR WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping cough, which some mothers think can be cured by taking children near gasworks or through a tunnel, is the subject of more quaint superstitions than almost any other disease. In Northamptonshire it is believed that if a small quantity of hair is cut from the nape of the sick child's neck, rolled in a piece of meat, and given to a dog, the whooping cough will be transferred to the animal. In Cornwall the child is fed with bread and butter which has been passed three times under the belly of a piebald horse. In Lancashire they still tell you that whooping cough will never attack a child that has ridden on a bear.

THE HEALTH OF TORONTO.

There were only 22 cases of typhoid with four deaths, as compared with 35 cases and five deaths in June last year. Tuberculosis alone shows an increase, but this is largely due to the more rigid enforcement of the regulations regarding notification. The figures are as follows:—Births, 891; marriages, 735; deaths, 445. June, 1911—births, 857; marriages, 716; deaths, 473. May, 1912—births, 934; marriages, 447; deaths, 637. Deaths from contagious diseases were:—Scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 8; measles, 1; whooping cough, 12; typhoid, 4; tuberculosis, 22. June, 1911—scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 11; measles, 16; whooping cough, 1; typhoid, 5; tuberculosis, 24. May, 1912—scarlet fever, 6; diphtheria, 20; measles, 4; whooping cough, 8; typhoid, 2; tuberculosis, 43.