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## EDITORIAL.

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### THE FLY.

When we began to call attention to the fly as an agent in the spread of disease, we had not many listeners. To-day the condition is quite changed. Not only is the medical profession aware of the danger of the fly, but the public have a lively fear of the fly crawling on a piece of pie, or falling into a bottle of milk. This fear is well founded. In another page we given an important pronouncement upon this subject from the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr. C. G. Hewitt, of Ottawa, gave a very instructive address on the "fly" at the Health Exhibit during the Industrial Fair. Among other things Dr. Hewitt said:

"By the aid of the hairy nature of the fly's legs and abdomen which could not fail to collect filth and bacteria wherever they were met with, photos of culture plates show large colonies of typhoid, tubercular and other bacteria.

"Far more germs find lodging inside of a fly than without, and, accordingly these may be taken in by the fly or the egg may have become inoculated by the usually filthy substance in which it was deposited. After a few hours the maggot emerges, already infected nor does it recover when passing through the pupa stage. And so you have your fly born inoculated. Throughout the various transitions from the laying of the eggs till the full-fledged flies are ready to propagate no more than nine or ten days transpire in hot weather. Now a fly deposits from 120 to 150 eggs at a time, and repeats this performance six or eight times during the season.

"A fly captured in a living room was allowed to stroll over a culture plate. Thirty colonies of six different species of germs developed. Another captured in a dining-room walking over a culture plate gave rise to 46 colonies of seven varieties, and yet another found on the flies' elysium, the putrifying garbage heap, deposited in the plate the nucleus of 116 colonies of ten varieties. Over 6,000,000 germs have been found on one fly."

The foregoing is proof enough to satisfy any one of the great danger that lurk around the common fly.