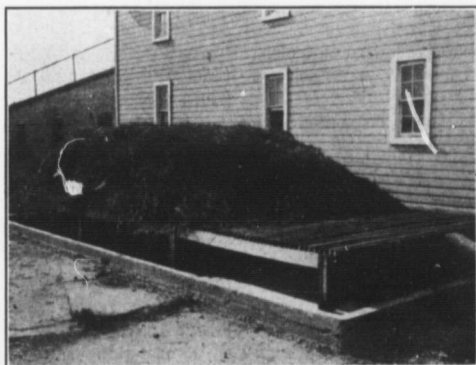


Their walking, feeding, vomiting and defaecating habits all tend to contaminate food-stuffs intended for human consumption and make them undesirable and objectionable to the extreme, especially in view of their foul association and filth-carrying capacity.

RELATION TO DISEASE.

But there is even a greater danger from flies when the question of certain diseases and their spreading is considered. At this point it may be of interest to note that the bacteria pro-

has come to be recognized as an infectious disease. Studies, particularly in Manchester, England, made by Niven during the periods of 1903-1909, show that "the disease has become more fatal only after house flies have been prevalent for some time, and its fatality rises as their numbers increase and falls as they fall." The same report shows that "there is an intimate relation between the storage of excreta in the privy and high diarrhoeal mortality."



ducing diseases in men have no effect on the house-flies.

The germ responsible for typhoid fever is found in the excrement, not of normal individuals, but of those that are either typically sick, or those that are "carriers" so-called; that is, mild, or dormant or convalescent cases. House-flies having access to such materials infect themselves and are likely to become important factors in distributing this disease by contaminating foods and drinking vessels and by tracking over sores or open wounds.

Summer diarrhoea, which is so fatal to children under five years of age,

Flies feeding on the sputum of patients suffering from tuberculosis may become strong distributing agents. Especially in view of the fact that they can travel at least one-quarter of a mile when there is no wind. It becomes essential for this reason to exclude flies from this infected matter.

Under suitable circumstances, that is, when there are people sick with cholera and their faeces are available to flies, cholera may be spread about. Also under favorable conditions, flies may be instrumental in distributing anthrax and diphtheria, though this is rare.