

# Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

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## COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH

The common stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) seems to play an important part in the spread of infantile paralysis.

From thorough epidemiological studies carried on by the Massachusetts Board of Health, under the supervision of its secretary, Dr. Mark W. Richardson, between 1907 and 1912, the investigators were led to strongly suspect this species of out-door fly.

Dr. Milton J. Rosenau, of the Harvard Medical School, who has been working in conjunction with these investigators, announced the results of these investigations and experiments at the recent congress on Hygiene and Demography, in Washington.

Several monkeys were infected with poliomyelitis by intracerebral inoculation. They were then exposed daily to the bites of hundreds of stable flies, and then twelve fresh monkeys to the bites of the same flies. When Rosenau made the announcement six had the symptoms characteristic of infantile paralysis. Of these, two died, three were still paralyzed and one had recovered after a brief illness.

In order to confirm these findings the United States Public Health Service instructed Drs. John F. Anderson and Wade H.