

The Rat Guard Used in the Philippine Islands.

The question of securing a rat guard that would give efficient service and at the same time meet the other requirements has long been the subject of consideration by the United States quarantine authorities in the Philippine Islands, says Carroll Fox in *Public Health Reports*. There has recently been put into use a guard patterned after the combined ideas of several of the officers, which answers all purposes. It is, in the first place, an effective barrier against the passage of rats; then it is cheap, readily applied, light, and not easily made un-serviceable by hard usage. It is built on the single disk plan. It has been found that the double disk is cumbersome, though it may be effective, and is readily put out of service by the rough usage which it is bound to receive. The style of rat guard which combines the points of a guard and trap is theoretically all right, but practically of little value.

The special features of the guard under consideration are these: A single disk in two parts with arms (funnels) from both sides. It is hinged by bolting at the periphery of the disk. There is a guide permitting a perfect opposition of the two parts of the disk when closed. It is adjustable to many different sizes of rope and when placed on the line fits closely by tying on both sides. Rivets are used throughout, thus increasing the strength. The distal portion of the arms is cut longitudinally into three strips so that they may be bent to come into immediate contact with the rope when tied.

The details of construction as worked out after considerable experience are as follows: Flat sheet galvanized iron is used for all parts of the guard; 20 to 24 gauge answers best, for that weight of iron is strong enough and does not make the guard too heavy. The shield should not be less than 3 feet in diameter. The funnel tubes should be 18 inches long on each side of the shield. The central aperture can be made to fit any size of rope. One made for a 3-inch diameter rope will serve for all smaller sizes. When made or used for encircling a number of lines at the same time the shield should be 4

feet in diameter and the funnel tube enlarged and supported by five flanges and five rivets instead of three. The guide piece, which is the one important feature of this guard, is riveted on one side only and then bent around the circumference. The rivets which fasten the funnel tubes go through the tube flanges on each side of the shield. One bolt, two washers, and five rivets are needed for each guard. When badly damaged by use or carelessness a block of wood and a hammer are all that is required to restore the guard to its former usefulness.

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