

fortunate fact is what saves us from such a pest of flies as would ruin the world. But the lesson of all this is that every fly should be killed whenever possible. Nature manages to see that countless millions of eggs never hatch successfully, and it is left for mankind to see that such flies as do survive are exterminated.—*Pacific Medical Journal*.

THE BARBERS OF ROUEN.

In France, as elsewhere, formerly barbers and surgeons were for centuries joined together. In the *Progrès Médical* of June 14th, a writer who signs himself M. G., gives an account of the community of surgeons of Rouen based on a history by Dr. Francois Hue, recently published. Little is known about the early period of this community, but their first statutes were inserted in the *Livre des Médecins* of Etienne Boileau, Provost of Paris in 1260. The administration of the community was then in the hands of a committee of six sworn members. Their function was to examine persons who practised surgery, and on their report the provost authorized or forbade the practice of those persons. In these statutes there is nothing to show that surgeons practised barbering, nor in the statutes of the barbers of 1371 is there any allusion to surgery. In 1500 the surgeons and barbers of Paris were reunited into one community by the efforts of the Faculty of Medicine, which wished to bring the surgeons under its authority. After innumerable lawsuits Charles the Ninth in 1567 decided that no barber should be admitted master in his craft unless he had passed an examination in surgery. The union lasted till the foundation of the College of Surgery in 1763. In 1648 a branch of the community was detached under the name of barbers, wig dressers, and bath men, which for a long time was under the dominion of the barber-surgeons, and was erected into a community only in 1673. This was, speaking broadly, the history of the community of surgeons of Rouen. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it was composed of a lieutenant, of the first surgeon of the king, of three sworn wardens, of sworn masters, *aspirants*, and apprentices. The lieutenant paid a tax to the first barber of the king. The masters had the right to keep open shop and to hang out boxes and basins. Their number was from 30 to 35. They were recruited by the procedure of the "great masterpiece," a long and minute examination, consisting of fourteen different parts and extending over several months. A man could become an *aspirant* only after an apprenticeship of three years under a master. Gradually he came to be able to take the master's place, and then either remained all his life assistant to a surgeon or looked after the business of a surgeon's widow, or passed the great examination if he