

DANGER OF FLIES

MAKE WAR ON THE PEST

Flies Are Our Greatest Enemy—
Screen Every Door and Window.

While we are thinking over the blessings and beauties of warm weather, there is another side to it, not so attractive, but far more important and just as serious as the possibility of a short crop owing to the backward growing season. That is the diseases the summer time brings. The first thing we ought to think of right now is "clean up." Not so much the regular spring house-cleaning—some of that might be very well dispensed with—but cleaning up on the outside. The mud holes left by the winter rains, the old tin cans or barrels with a little water left in them, all of them line breeding places for mosquitoes. Get rid of the piles of refuse around the house and barn that furnish a hatchery for flies. The slogan for farmers, "raise everything at home," is a good one, but I don't think there is any use in carrying it to the extreme of raising our own flies and mosquitoes as so many of us do.

We country folks have the advantage of our town neighbors in that we do not have to suffer much from anybody's dirt but our own. Town people, especially in small towns where there is no strict enforcement

of sanitary ordinances, may be ever ever so clean on their own premises, and yet have to endure the flies and disease germs of their neighbors on either side.

I believe most authorities settle on the fly as our most deadly enemy and if we would but exercise the commonest care, we could minimize this danger, and with constant vigilance and energy, could do away with it altogether. The dreaded "summer complaint" of babies is generally carried by flies, and yet so few mothers seem to take any precautions to keep them away from their babies. I am almost ashamed to say right here that all milk bottles, nipples—in fact, anything used about a baby's food should be scrupulously kept from flies—for that would seem that I am crediting the mothers with a total lack of sense. But I have seen in more than one child's sick room swarms of flies, crawling from the child's soiled clothing to his milk. It is no wonder so many babies are sick and so many die when they are "teething." For many things are laid on teething which many times are only negligence or ignorance on the part of the mother. With all the precautions we can take to keep from raising flies there will be a few, and we can never tell from what putrid feast they fly, straight to the face of a sleeping child or to the dinner table.

So the best thing to do is to keep them out with screens. How people ever get along without screens, I can't imagine, but they did, and far too many people do yet. Personally, I don't want any patent screens with folding or sliding devices. They are expensive and have never given me satisfaction. I want a good piece of wire screening nailed outside over the entire window, so the sash can be opened from top to bottom. Then it is there to stay, and nobody can leave a screen out accidentally, and if properly put on, there are no cracks for flies to get in. Then, I want good, tight fitting screen doors with strong spring to make them close quickly every time they are opened. It is true this entails some inconvenience when one is going in or out with full hands, but it nothing to be compared with the trouble caused by flies and mosquitoes.

After screens are put in, unless done in cold weather, there will still be some flies in the house, and I have tried many things

for getting rid of these stragglers. I find the sticky fly-paper very good, but where there are small children it is hard to keep them from getting it stuck on them, and it is always blowing about and getting on tables and floors. I have tried formalin, but for me it would never work. It was like the old adage of driving a horse to water and making him drink. I could never get the flies to go near it after I got it fixed up. I have recently read that 29 drops of carbolic acid sprinkled on a hot shovel would kill them, and this summer, I shall try that. A very good way to get rid of them is to go round the screens in the morning with a paper or heavy cloth and kill them. In the mornings, especially on the sunny side of the house, they all cluster on the screens trying to get out and it is easy to kill them. For the pestiferous mosquito, I have never found anything so good as oil of citronella. It is inexpensive, has a pleasant odor and a little of it goes a long way towards making the "skeeter" keep his distance.

Besides being a health preserver, screens are very nice in other ways, such as keeping out vagrant dogs and cats, and at the same time admitting plenty

of fresh air. If you have never enjoyed the luxury of a screened porch, try one this summer. I have a screened back porch, and as soon as I can I'm going to have the front one screened in, too. I do like vines around the porch, in summer, but I emphatically do not like the bugs and lizards and other creeping, crawling things that infest a vine-wreathed porch. So I'm going to screen them out and then I can enjoy my book and rocking chair in peace.

But let me say again, at whatever cost and to yourself, screen your house, and do it now. You can afford to make any sacrifice rather than risk a summer without screens.

Kill Potato Bugs By Spraying

Practically every one knows and has been troubled with the Irish potato bug, and all will agree that very little good can be done by picking them from the plants. It is so easy to control them by spraying that there is no excuse for anyone to allow this insect to do much damage. This insect being a biting one may be easily killed by putting some kind of poison on the leaves of the potato. The two common poisons used are arsenate of lead and Paris green. Both are good but the arsenate of lead is the best on account of the fact that it will not burn the foliage as easily as the Paris green will. Mix three pounds of arsenate of lead with each barrel of the Bordeaux and the spraying will control both the blight and the bugs. If you are not spraying for the blight, just mix the arsenate of lead with 50 gallons of water and four pounds of lime. The lime should be slaked and made into a thin whitewash and strained before being poured into the barrel of water.

If you wish to spray only a few rows of potatoes for bugs, make the mixture as follows: Dip out the arsenate of lead with a teaspoon and with a knife or some other hard instrument scrape off the lead, leaving the spoon exactly level full of the poison. Add two spoonfuls to each gallon of water and the milk of lime produced from the slaking of a lump of lime about half the size of an egg. The arsenate of lead should always be made into a milky solution before being added to the water in the bucket or barrel. The best way to do this is to put a small amount of water in a vessel and rub the lead between your hands until it is all thoroughly mixed with the water. It will not hurt your hands, but you should be very careful not to get any of it about your mouth.

If you haven't a spray pump you can sprinkle the liquid on with an old broom. Of course, you couldn't afford to do this with more than a few short rows.

The Bordeaux mixture used for this spraying of the potatoes is the same kind of mixture that is used for spraying apples in mid-summer, and it will be well for those who do not know how to make it without following directions to keep this article where it will be handy, as space will not be taken up again in the paper this summer to tell how it is made

L. A. NIVAN.

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