

Health Topics

MOSQUITOES.

What They Do, How They Do It, and How to Prevent Them.

Mosquito prospects are fine this season—for the mosquito. All they need is a little more time. They will do the rest. Wet weather, with abundance of water standing about in ponds, swamps, puddles, rain barrels, old tin cans, bottles, dishes, roof spouting, etc., furnishes ideal mosquito conditions. Add to this from one to two weeks of warm weather and the result will be marvelous. Thousands of mosquitoes will appear as if by magic.

What Mosquitoes Do.

Of course a few will bite you while others will hum and buzz around your ears in a tortuous way when you wish to sleep, rest, or read. But this is the least of the trouble. What they may do is to inject the tiniest amount of malarial germs into your blood.

That will give you malarial chills and fever for months or years, make you generally inefficient, impoverish your blood, and make you the easy prey of scores of other diseases that you would not otherwise contract.

Approximately 550 North Carolinians died of malaria last year, and several times as many died of other diseases because their bodies were in such an "all-run-down" condition due to malaria and the mosquito bite that they contracted every other disease to which they were at all liable.

How to Prevent Mosquitoes.

Fortunately the mosquito is not a great traveler. He usually resides within from one hundred to five hundred feet of his birthplace. Winds may occasionally drive him farther away, but like the fly, he is very domestic. Therein lies our cue. Destroy his breeding places around our homes and we have turned the trick. If the average householder in the city would have removed all his old tin cans, bottles, tubs, barrels, buckets, and other vessels containing water, if he would examine his roof sprouting and cellar to see that there is no stale water, and if he would either fill or drain all low wet holes, his mosquito pests would be decreased over half. If he can succeed in getting his neighbors on both sides to do the same thing, he will have less than a fourth of an average mosquito crop. If he can get all the people in his block to abolish all their mosquito breeding places and keep them abolished for the summer he will not have one mosquito where he had ten last year, and when the entire town learns to follow suit, mosquitoes will be found only in the museums.

MOSQUITOES.

So much has been written and said in the past ten or twenty years about mosquitoes and their malign agency in the spread of certain diseases that it seems as if there is little left to be said. That would be true if people only took in all that was told them and acted upon the knowledge so acquired. But although we know how to exterminate mosquitoes or at least to diminish materially their numbers, it is only recently, and here and there, that any steps have been taken to fight them, and this in spite of the enormous discomfort and misery they cause, let alone their pernicious activity in perpetuating malaria.

There are many varieties of mosquitoes, but only three kinds that concern us in this country very deeply. These varieties are distinguish-

ed as belonging to the genera, Culex, Anopheles and Stegomyia.

The first-named includes the ordinary fiercely biting mosquito of temperate parts. It is suspected, and with some good reason, of spreading dengue, or "breakbone" fever—a distressing disease occurring in epidemics in the Southern States.

The mosquitoes of the second class are the greatest enemy man has among the gnats, for they convey the germ of malaria, and it is probable that without them this disease would cease to exist. The third genus embraces the yellow-fever mosquitoes. By destroying them in large numbers, and preventing the survivors from biting persons sick with yellow fever, this disease has been driven out of Havana, Panama and Rio de Janeiro. The mosquitoes exist, however, in great numbers in the southern part of our country, and so long as they od, and so long as yellow fever exists in the coast towns of Mexico and Central America, just so long are we liable to recurrence of epidemics of the disease in places bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, so their extermination is theoretically easy—do away with mud-holes, swamps and stagnant pools. Practically, however, the affair is not so simple, for it involves

the drainage of swamps, the stocking of ponds with the fish which feed on mosquito eggs, the clearing away of weeds and bushes from the borders of ponds and streams, the screening of cisterns and tanks, the covering with a film of oil of pools which cannot be drained, and many other troublesome measures. The reward, however, is great, as some communities in which a mosquito campaign has been waged know to their joy. Fortunately, mosquitoes do not travel far, and a public-spirited community which has rid itself of the mosquito pest has little to apprehend from its lazy neighbor a few miles away.—Youth's Companion.

TO FIGHT MOSQUITOES.

The following is from a bulletin published on this subject for use in the Barbadoes Isles:

One part oil citronella.
One part spirit of camphor.
Half part oil of cedars.

A few drops sprinkled on a towel and hung over the bed will keep mosquitoes away during the night.

W. A. GRAHAM,
Commissioner.

Lawyer (to witness): "Now, then, Mr. Murphy, give us your last residence."

Murphy: "Faith, sir, I dunno; but it'll be the cemetery, Oi'm thinking!"—Tit-Bits.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

Kelly C. Hinnant.

Whereas, the Lord in His infinite wisdom has seen proper to take from this vale of tears our beloved brother, K. C. Kinnant; therefore, be it—

Resolved 1. That in the death of Brother Hinnant our Lodge has lost a valued member and the Farmers' Union an ardent, zealous and sincere advocate. That he longed for the success of our Union and yearned to see the advancement of the principles of the Order in the hearts of the people everywhere.

2. That the community in which he lived has lost an honest, upright citizen and his friends a loving, genial companion and his family has suffered a loss that cannot be remedied.

3. That this Union extends its truest sympathy to the bereaved family in this hour of their trial and while we grieve at his loss, let us remember that he is beyond the troubles of this life and by his loving kindness let our lives be made better because we have known and associated with him.

4. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family and the same be spread on the minutes of the Union.

5. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Carolina Union Farmer.

C. S. DAVIS,
E. T. SAULS,
J. E. OVERMAN,

Local Secretaries and Agents, Attention!

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