

Through the centre of this swamp runs a creek. The soil is porous down to the stratum of non-porous clay. In the mud of this soil the mosquito lays its eggs, and the tides leave water for their developing. This water could not soak through, for there is the pressure of other water from beneath. With all this water drained off it is plain that the larvæ must perish. Dr. Doty experimented and found that they would do so.

Hence the city has appropriated 17,000 dols. for him to start this draining wherever needed on the island. About thirty men have started cutting ditches leading into the creek and thence into the sea. A ditch, it has been found, will draw water from about 30 ft. each side hence the cuts are made about 50 ft. apart, depending on the lay of the land. A perfect net-work of these is laid out so as to drain every square inch. Dr. Doty expects no great difficulty in keeping the bottom of the ditches open. The growing of grass over the top of the ditch makes no difference, for it isn't that the water runs off the surface of the swamp, but that it soaks through to the impervious clay, then along the clay to the ditch. When the tide is out, you can see the water rushing through the ditches and the creek. The larvæ are left like fish out of water and die between tides.

This work is being started so late principally that the eggs deposited may not hatch in the spring. Over on the west side of the island, along the hills, are similar marshes, and the work of draining them is now being laid out.

The people about these marshes are taking a growing interest in the work, and come out to watch it. The marshes have been the dumping grounds of the communities for a long time. The Board of Health has decided to have a patrol of sanitary inspectors to stop this. In a few hours the water back of South Beach has drained off so that men may now for the first time walk across it without rubber boots. This alone means the reclaiming of much valuable land.

Over near Hackensack, N.J., this draining has been successfully done, and a farmer there told Dr. Doty that it had increased the value of his estate by about 10,000 dols., and that he now grows full crops of hay, where formerly he sent in men with rubber boots to cut a patch here and here.

"If this ditching," says Dr. Doty, "can be done all along the Atlantic seaboard, as it is hoped to do, the salt water mosquito will be exterminated." This mosquito cannot live at sea, and hence is not carried from port to port.

While the salt water mosquito is a nuisance, no specific disease has yet been indisputably traced to its bite, as is the case with the yellow fever mosquito or the malarial, inland type (*Culex pungenis*).

Concurrently with the war on the salt water pest, Dr. Doty is conducting a house to house campaign against the malarial variety. This variety lays its eggs in fresh water pools, rain barrels, open wells or cisterns, old cans or pans or buckets—in any place where water stagnates. Its habitat is local. During the winter it hibernates in houses.

Dr. Doty has circulated 4,000 pamphlets telling how to wipe out this pest. All cisterns and wells are being closed, and no openings allowed, unless covered with wire netting. Breeding places are being destroyed or coated with petroleum, which smothers the larvæ by choking up the "windpipes" in the tails, which they stick up to the surface. In some sections of Staten Island Dr. Doty found, by actual questioning, that at least one inmate of every house had suffered malaria from the bite of this mosquito.

### League News.

The following ladies have become members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses:—Miss Edith Mary Macfarlane, Miss Mabel K. Smith, Miss Elizabeth Jessie Stewart, Miss Sarah Margaret Stubbs, Miss Ethel Louise Firbank, Miss Jessie Connell, Miss Dorothy Penrose Foster, Miss Kathleen Margaret Jackson, Miss Mary Mackintosh, Miss May Cockshott, Miss Amy Crabtree, Mrs. Mary Owen Allen, Miss Mary A. Fennings, Miss Hilda Cramp, Miss E. E. Heyworth, Miss F. E. Zeglio.

### The Hospital Sunday Fund.

The Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund met at the Mansion House on Tuesday, and reported a record collection amounting to £78,379 16s. 1d.

An important new departure was agreed to in including Queen Victoria's Institute for Nurses, the North London Nursing Association, and the Bible Women's Association of Trained Nurses as eligible for grants. The meeting approved that portion of the report of Sir Edward Fry's Committee with regard to the future distinction between Hospitals having medical schools attached. Further, that no grant should be made to hospitals which failed to comply with the instructions of the Committee in that respect.

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