

Empire should combine to erect a personal Memorial for themselves to Miss Nightingale; and this should take a concrete public form, and not, as some have already suggested, some object of benevolence or charity for individual nurses. In this connection we nurses long to give and not to take, and in this belief, we would suggest trained Nurses would most appropriately express their homage and their ardent admiration for her memory by subscribing to erect a statue of Miss Nightingale. This statue should undoubtedly be prominently placed in the Metropolis of the Empire, either, for instance, in Westminster Abbey, or, better still, on the vacant pedestal in Trafalgar Square, which, by a curious coincidence stands in the shadow of the House of the Royal College of Physicians, the most ancient corporation of the great profession with whom Miss Nightingale worked so loyally, and to forward whose work she has done such incalculable service.

Medical Matters.

FLIES AS CARRIERS OF DISEASE.

The *American Journal of Nursing* appeals to nurses to fight the dirty little house fly. Flies have been proven to be the carriers on their hairy legs and in their bodies of the bacilli of typhoid, cholera, tuberculosis, and certain forms of diarrhoea. Under certain conditions they may aid in spreading small-pox, plague, trichoma, septicæmia, erysipelas, and leprosy, and play an important part in the mortality of bottle-fed babies. They breed by preference in horse manure, to a limited extent in cow manure, and in miscellaneous filth. One fly may deposit one hundred and twenty eggs; the young maggots hatch in less than twenty-four hours, completing their growth in from five to seven days. The life circle is complete in from ten to fourteen days, and there may be ten or twelve generations in a season. Twelve hundred flies may be bred from one pound of manure. Fly specks have been found to contain the bacilli of cholera. Flies usually breed within from three to five hundred feet of the place where they are abundant. They do not breed in the dark.

Garbage and refuse receptacles should be tight and closely covered. Manure pits should be screened and emptied at least once a week, or the manure kept in dark, closely covered concrete pits. The old fashioned privy box

should be abolished when possible. It may be screened and used as an earth closet. We have seen this easily done by using the ashes from the kitchen stove in sufficient quantity to keep the pit dry and the contents covered; this also controls the odour that makes so many country yards offensive.

In the crusade against the common house-fly nurses will play an important part—preaching the gospel of screens and cleanliness, showing the ignorant and careless how to clean up the breeding places if near at hand, and how to protect the food, the baby, and the house from the invasion of those disease-carrying little legs and bodies.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Dr. Reginald Farrer, who is investigating the outbreak of spotted fever on behalf of the Local Government Board, has not yet collected sufficient *data* on which to base his official report, but states that about three-quarters of the cases are of the type generally known as infantile paralysis, a mild form of the complaint occurring in young children. He deprecates the use of the term "spotted fever" in reference to the outbreak, since very few, if any, of the affected persons have shown any rash, and says it will be impossible without careful and bacteriological research to identify the organism which is at the bottom of the outbreak. Dr. Farrer points out that the disease is always present in a sporadic form in the country, occasionally assuming greater prevalence and severity, a circumstance not yet thoroughly understood, and he expresses the opinion that, in view of the special liability of young children to the infection, schools should be closed for the present. But the risks of general infection are so slight that it is neither necessary nor desirable to interfere with the ordinary business and pleasure of the neighbourhood.

PARASITE OR CELL.

Medical science has spent many years and much labour in the vain effort to discover a parasite of cancer. Even recently it has been feared that cancer patients were a menace to their neighbours, and that the houses of cancer victims should be burned. But the experimental study of tumours has greatly strengthened the view that cancer is not a contagious disease, that its exciting cause cannot be a readily transmissible parasite, and that the long-looked-for cancer parasite is the cancer cell. The field of research has, therefore, been narrowly defined, and it is not likely that the enthusiastic search for a specific cancer parasite will soon again assume the dominant position it once occupied.

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