

or boiler may be allowed to travel along the seams. The clothing will soon dry.

THE BED BUG (*CIMEX LECTULARIUS*).

The bed bug is of a reddish or brownish rusty colour, fading into black. "Its body is extraordinarily flattened, so that it can readily pass into chinks or between splits in furniture and boarding, and this it does whenever daylight approaches, for the bug loves darkness rather than light. . . . It produces an oily fluid which has a quite intolerable odour."

No parasite was ever more determined in reaching the host which it desires to attack.

It is credibly stated that if you submerge the legs of your bed in metal saucers and place the bed in the centre of the room, the bugs will crawl up the wall, walk along the ceiling, and drop on to the bed and on to you.

Bugs can live a very long time without a meal. Some incarcerated in a pill box for over a year were alive when it was ultimately opened, though as thin as oiled paper, and almost so transparent that you could read *The Times* through them (only the larger print, such as the leading articles and letters from Admirals), but even under these conditions they had managed to produce offspring.

THE FLEA (*PULEX IRRITANS*).

"The fact is now fully established that the bubonic plague is conveyed to man from infected rats, or from infected men to healthy men by fleas.

"The bite of the flea is accompanied by the injection of the secretion of the so-called salivary glands of the insect, and this secretion retards the coagulation of the victim's blood, stimulates the blood flow, and sets up the irritation we have all felt."

THE FLOUR MOTH (*EPIHESTIA KÜHNIELLA*).

The flour moth (*Ephestia kühniella*) is important because it plays havoc with soldiers' biscuits, and "an army marches on its stomach."

THE HOUSE FLY (*MUSCA DOMESTICA*).

The house fly (*Musca domestica*) is the most cosmopolitan of insects; wherever man is, there is the fly. It is now known that the fly plays a definite part in conveying enteric fever, as well as infantile diarrhoea; while the blowfly or blowfly will deposit its eggs not only in dead but in living flesh.

Mites, ticks, and leeches, with which we have not space here to deal, complete the minor horrors. Suffice it to say that of leeches we are told "their bodies are as extensible as the conscience of a politician, and as flexible as that of a candidate for Parliamentary honours."

NURSING AND THE WAR.

In view of the fact that the services of every trained nurse in the country are likely to be in demand in the near future for the staffing of the large number of military hospitals required for the care of the sick and wounded it behoves all nurses to bring their knowledge up to date. To afford facilities, Miss Swift, the Matron-in-Chief under the Joint War Committee is organizing a course of Post Graduate Lectures which will be given on April 13th, 14th, 16th, 20th, 21st, and 23rd, at Burlington Gardens Theatre at 5.30 p.m. The surgical lectures will be given by Mr. Philip Turner, Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and the medical course, including fevers, by Dr. David Forsyth, Physician to Charing Cross Hospital. The lectures will be open to certificated nurses, or to nurses who have spent a year and a half to two years in hospital. A fee of 7s. 6d. will be charged, which will include a copy of the lectures, which will subsequently be printed and circulated. Application should be made at once to Miss Swift, Nursing Department, St. John's Gate, marked "Post Graduate." The fee should be enclosed with the application.

The following nurses left London on Sunday for Serbia for work in Mrs. Hardy's Hospital, and the Typhus Colony:—

The Misses L. Kelly, R. M. Ridge, T. Crombleholme, L. Sturt, C. Gowans, B. L. Robinshaw, R. Mansell, C. L. Norman (Norwegian), M. T. O'Neill, M. Coleman.

Miss K. N. Fitch, Miss E. Lyn Jones, and Miss V. Lüders (Danish) left London on April 1st.

On Thursday, April 1st, there left Euston Station for Liverpool two contingents of nurses to join the hospital service in Serbia. At Liverpool they embarked on the Admiralty transport *Saidieh* for Salonica where they will receive instructions from the Serbian Government. Both parties are under the ægis of the Serbian Relief Fund. The British Farmers' Hospital unit has as its administrator Mr. L. M. Wynch, and Mrs. Arthur Moore is Hon. Secretary. The medical staff includes Dr. Fabian Hirst, Mr. A. J. Beadel, Dr. R. M. Morison, and Dr. J. Wilman. We have already published the names of the Sisters who will work under Miss Mozley, the Matron. The hospital is equipped as completely as possible for fighting typhus from the funds subscribed by the British Farmers, and sorely are the services of doctors and nurses needed, for news has been received by the Serbian Relief Committee that at Skoplje alone there are 3,000 cases of typhus.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart is Director of the unit organised by the Women's Imperial Service League, which will work under canvas so as to be free from the possibility of infected houses.

Travelling by the same train was Miss Nicholson, trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, who, accompanied by another nurse, is going as Matron

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)