

After use, he kicks the stirrup free and the lid falls.

The only cost should be occasional renewing of the wire rope between the lid and the stirrup.

The floor should be sloped slightly downwards and backwards for the tin receptacles to facilitate cleaning.

Advantages.—(a) Caste prejudice to touching the lid is overcome; (b) fly proof; (c) cheap; (d) easily attached to any present latrine.

BOURGAULT'S CATTLE-FLY TRAP.

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WHEN recently visiting Ferney Sugar Estate, Mauritius, I was much struck with the simple and efficient fly-trap invented by M. Leon R. L. Bourgault du Coudray, the description of which may be of interest to some of our readers.

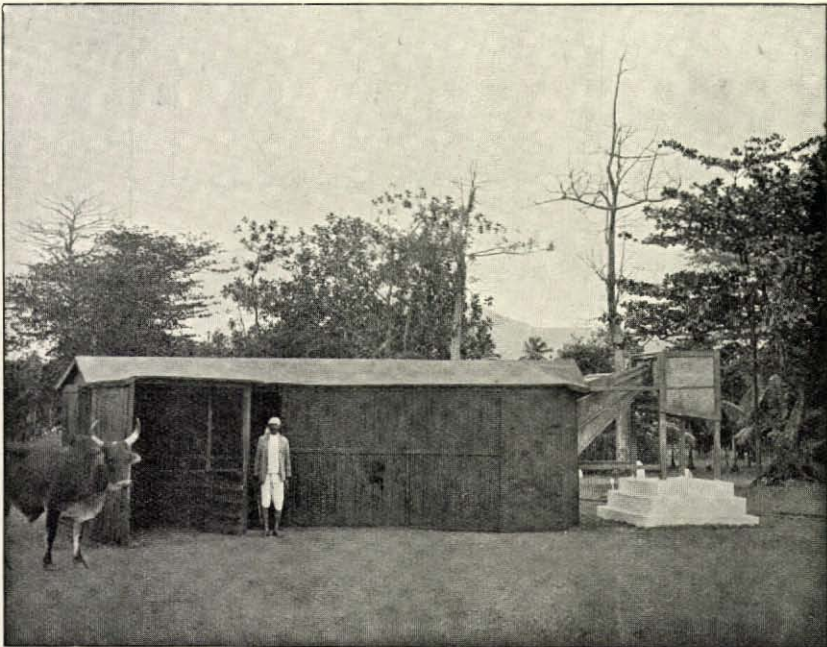


FIG. 1.—Cattle Fly Trap at "Ferney" Sugar Estate, Mauritius.

M. Bourgault du Coudray has kindly supplied me with full details of his invention and the method of working.

The trap consists of a darkened building (fig. 1) through which the

cattle walk and brush off or disturb any flies which may be on them, and the natural tendency of these insects to seek the light is utilized to attract them into a destructor trap.

The diagram (fig. 3) shows the arrangement of the building with passages 7, 4, 9, etc., through which the animals pass. Owing to a sudden change in the direction after entering at 2 and passing along 7, the oxen

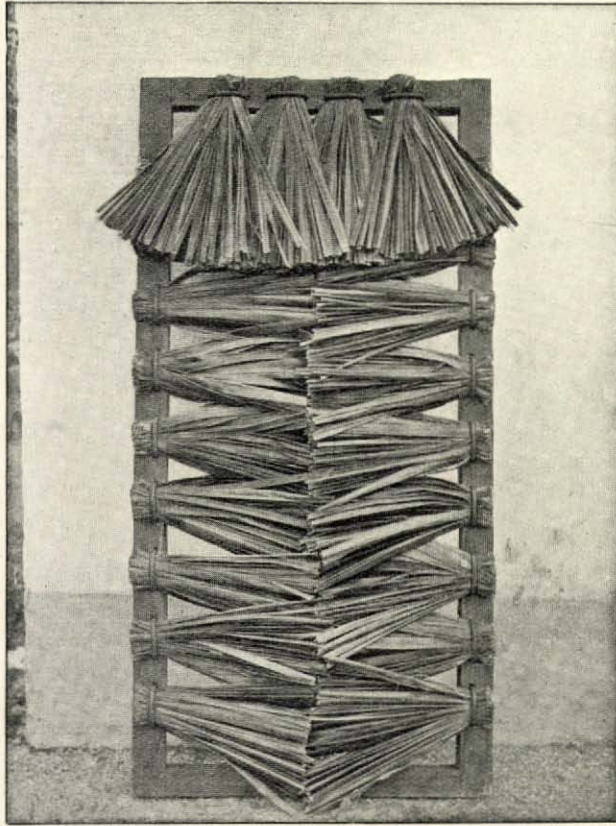


FIG. 2.—The brushing device through which the animals have to pass. The brushes are made of coco leaves.

enter a second passage 4 from whence they must pass through the brushes partition 13, made of branches and leaves (coco leaves) (fig. 2).

The flies are thus brushed off the animals and make for the nearest source of light at point 8, which enters the building through a metallic gauze trap 16, and they remain in part 18, and are destroyed there in a suitable manner.

The cattle, now completely rid of their flies, walk on in semi-darkness around the corner 10, along 9 until they reach the exit 3 of the structure.

The species of flies most commonly found on cattle in Mauritius are stomoxys and, to a small extent, the common house-fly.

The process is simplicity in itself. Ten minutes is sufficient time to send a hundred oxen through the trap. After the end of the second day the animals pass through it quite willingly and seem to realize its advantages quite soon, as the oxen, immediately on being released from their carts, go to the trap themselves and sometimes even at a gallop.

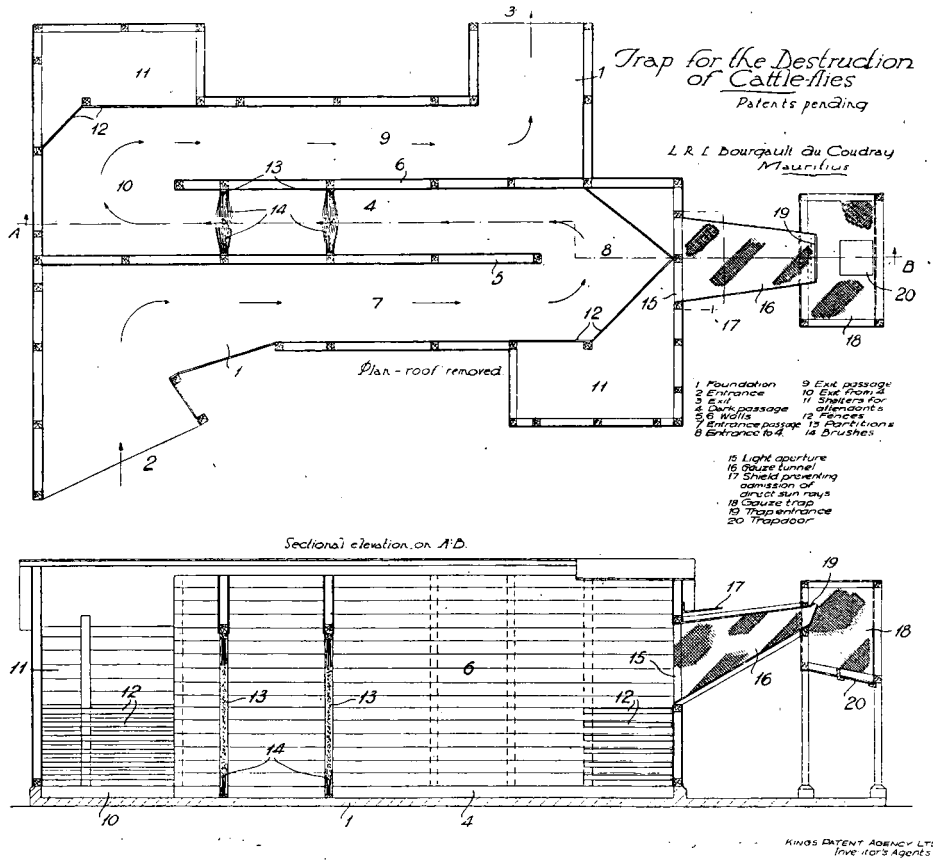


FIG. 3.

During the bad fly season, in addition to passing the herds through the trap each time they go in and out of the stables and to and from the pasture lands, it has been found useful to employ a black bullock as a decoy (if possible tailless). The animal is driven by a boy round the vicinity and finally to the trap when some flies have collected on the beast.

The results obtained from the outset were astonishing. Working with a hundred oxen on the Ferney Sugar Estate in January, 1928, 208,000 flies were destroyed during the first week, 198,000 during the second, and

138,000 during the third. At the end of the first month the total number destroyed was 750,000.

In view of the fact that a very definite reduction in the number of house-flies was observed in dwellings on estates where the Bourgault fly-trap was in action, its use might be extended to the human species in camp, cantonments and trenching grounds in Egypt and India.

A number of house-flies are associated with stomoxys, and have been captured sucking the puncture left by the former. The common house-fly is also fond of alighting on the eyelids of oxen in order to imbibe the lachrymal fluid.

In the tsetse belts of Africa the application of the trap might be tried to some advantage for the reduction of the sleeping sickness fly.

Flies in Mauritius are a great pest to all animals. Stomoxys is the cause of considerable mortality amongst cattle from surra. Profound anæmia, marasmus, debility and diminished lactation are common amongst the herds in the Colony.

The trap is economical and not expensive to erect. A very small outlay is all that is required for the upkeep, namely, for the renewal of the brushes, which are generally composed of coco leaves, and last for six weeks or more. It is extremely simple and rapid in action, giving extraordinarily good results. There is no doubt that the device will be much appreciated and extensively used in tropical countries where flies are so numerous and troublesome to man and beast.

The Director of Agriculture, Mauritius, and the Government Veterinary Surgeon have testified in the highest terms to the undoubted value of the trap as a fly-catcher. Several estate managers and planters have also given testimony as to its great utility.

In conclusion I have to thank M. Leon R. L. Bourgault du Coudray for his notes and illustrations of the trap, which has been patented in Great Britain and several other countries.