

may be sufficient; but in severe attacks it is necessary to inject 40, 60, or 80 cc., or even more, at once, and repeat the injection the next day. If the intestinal symptoms do not then sufficiently abate, the use of the serum should be continued in decreasing doses till the number of stools is reduced to a few in the twenty-four hours.

Not only is the serum effective from the point of view of cure, but by cutting short the disease it lessens the period during which infection may be spread. The authors advise that in regions, such as Brittany, where dysentery is epidemic, the serum should be used as a prophylactic.

J. G. McNAUGHT.

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## Correspondence.

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### HOUSE FLIES AND THEIR WAYS AT BENARES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

DEAR SIR,—With regard to my paper published in the August number of the Journal, on "House Flies and Their Ways at Benares," will you kindly add a note to the effect that, since that paper was written, I have obtained *Musca domestica* from larvæ bred in an artificial latrine containing human excreta mingled with earth. My observations so far lead me to believe that the various flies, intimately connected with man and his surroundings, which breed in ordure, affect mainly fresh ordure; that stale manure is of little account as food for the larvæ of such flies.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

F. SMITH,

Major, R.A.M.C.

Benares,

August 5th, 1907.

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### WANTED, AN EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—In a letter in the August number of the Journal, *re* the absence of mosquitoes at Sarant Wadi, Colonel Forman asserts that he knows of no place on the plains of India, other than Sarant Wadi, where one can sleep without curtain or punkah throughout the year; and he gravely doubts if such a place exists.

My experience of India is almost entirely confined to Madras and Burma, yet I know of at least one such place in Southern India, viz., Malapuram, in Malabar. I served in that delectable place for about thirteen months (1900-1901), and during that time no one while in the

station ever used a mosquito net, or ever required one. I do not assert that there were no mosquitoes, but, at any rate, they were so few in number as to be treated as not existing. Other officers of the Corps who have served at Malapuram may have a different story to tell, but the fact remains that for over a year I slept in comfort without either a mosquito net or a punkah, and without suffering from malaria. This was done deliberately on account of the greater comfort, and was not due to ignorance of the rôle of *Anopheles* in malarial fever.

The explanation in this case was simple. The barracks, officers' quarters, &c., are beautifully situated on high ground, with good surface drainage, and the whole place was kept in "apple-pie" order. The difficulty was to find any places where mosquitoes could breed, and many a weary hour I spent in futile searching for larvæ:

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

J. COWAN,

*Captain, R.A.M.C.*

*August 26th, 1907.*

