

BOOK REVIEWS.

The House Fly—Disease Carrier; an account of its dangerous activities and of the means of destroying it. By L. O. Howard. pp. xix-312; figs. 40. Fredrick A. Stokes Co., New York. \$1.50.

The dangerous character of the house fly as an agent in the spread of disease has only very recently become a matter of common knowledge, but the great activity during the past two or three seasons by health authorities and civic associations has instilled a wholesome dread of this insect in the minds of the public at large.

Many scattered, incomplete, and sometimes grossly overstated accounts of the house fly have appeared in the public press, or in pamphlet form to enjoy a wide distribution. These have accomplished great good, but those desirous of presenting the matter in accurate form have been hampered by the lack of any complete treatise in popular style, until the appearance of Doctor Howard's book.

Although considering the matter from many sides, the book is eminently economic in nature, with chapters on Zoölogical Position, Life History and Habits; the Natural Enemies of the Typhoid Fly; the Carriage of Disease by Flies, Remedies and Preventive Measures, Other Flies Frequenting Houses, as well as a short bibliographical list and several appendices giving lists of flies frequenting human dejecta, those found in kitchens, and those reared from cow manure, together with a copy of the laws of the District of Columbia relating to the fly nuisance, and a reprint of Stiles' "Directions for Building a Sanitary Privy."

Every entomologist will wish to see the book widely distributed among those indifferent to the dangers attending the presence of house flies, and persons desiring to know the present actual economic status of these insects, can do no better than to peruse its pages.

The volume is well printed; with excellent figures, most of them gathered from published sources, including several of Cobb's very fine photographic enlargements of the entire fly and the head. While its author says that the book "is not intended to be a scientific monograph; it is simply an attempt to tell in an understandable way what is known about the subjects in the title," the material is so well selected that few can claim familiarity with all the matter that has been included.

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