

## School Pupils' Essays on Fly Eradication

In this day of the world's sanitary progress the fly is no longer regarded simply as a nuisance but a deadly pest for it is safe to state that a large majority of the insects which affect the lives of men for good or for evil, are of this order. Wherever there is human habitation there are flies and in hot weather they are the cause of much annoyance.

Every fly has three parts, the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. It has four legs and two transparent wings. Its head is insignificant except for the eyes which are comparatively very large. There are two large areas studded with thousands of lenses with three simple eyes in the center. The fly can see in every direction because of these large eyes. The fly is furnished with a sucking apparatus thru which a fluid may be poured to soften hard surfaces. Because of these sucker-like hair on its legs the fly can climb the smoothest surfaces such as vertical glass and it can even walk on the ceiling.

There have been 40,000 species described up to this time and prominent scientists believe that there are four times that number at least. The most common are the dragon-fly, the horse fly, the May-fly and the house-fly. Of these the house-fly is probably the most common.

Flies are found in largest numbers near refuse and manure. This is because the eggs are laid in such places and flies grow up in them. The larvae, which hatch from the eggs in a few hours, are small white maggots. Then they pass into the resting stage. In about twelve days they are mature flies. As each fly produces one hundred eggs a new generation can spring up in ten days, so it is evident how astonishingly rapid that they multiply. A few flies survive in sheltered places each winter so the species are preserved.

Flies are an important factor in the distribution of disease and a great source of its contagion. Not only do they gather germs in the decaying matter where they lay eggs and transport them into the human body by bites, but they also leave germs on food when they crawl over it and so these germs go into the stomach. Flies leave germs everywhere and most every contagious disease can be spread by them. Typhoid, cholera and tuberculosis are the three most harmful sicknesses that they spread. In some eastern countries where the religion of men prevents them from killing any insects, the fly carries ophthalmia germs and so it is very seldom that an adult has perfect eyes. This thing is particularly true of Egypt. As flies breed in manure every possible precaution should be taken to kill the eggs in this. This can be done by using borax or when the manure is only a few days old it should be carried away and if intended for fertilizer it should be spread out very thin, so the fly may not lay eggs in it.

The importance of having the house completely screened in summer can never be put too strongly. This step is the first importance in the protection of food at home, in the store, slaughter house, restaurant, creamery, etc.

Many fly-traps have been invented. Perhaps the best known is the Hodge trap. When the flies are caught in this they can be killed by scalding water or kerosene.

After flies are in the house the best way to kill them is to use some sticky fly-paper. The flies soon die after they have been caught on its surface. Fly-poisons are useful when there is no danger of letting children get into them.

The most common method ever known is to swat the fly. This is an

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entirely unexpensive way and is used everywhere.

Though everyone may not use the same method it is very evident that flies should be excluded from every house and a universal effort made to diminish this dangerous enemy of the public health.

Alice Angus, 1st year High

All insects have three parts. These are (1) The head; (2) the thorax; (3) the abdomen.

The head of the fly is very large in proportion to its body. It has two very large eyes that are made up of thousands of smaller eyes. The fly has two feelers one on each side of its mouth. They are like fine hairs and there are many small hairs growing from the feelers. The mouth of the fly is between the feelers and is a kind of a tube. The head is all covered with many fine hairs.

The thorax of the fly is a good deal larger than the head. The thorax has three parts, to each of which are joined two legs. The wings are also joined to the thorax. The fly has only one pair of wings.

The abdomen of the fly is the largest part. It is divided up into nine parts. It is thickly covered with hair and on the large flies the abdomen is a light green.

The common house fly lays about one million eggs every summer. Every time a fly is killed it means just about one million flies less. There are many ways to get rid of the fly. Tanglefoot paper is used most and it is about the best thing to kill the fly with. Poison is dangerous because children are liable to get it and swallow it.

The fly lays eggs in manure piles, on garbage heaps, on meat, and in fresh wounds. The young flies are white and worm-like and are called maggots. After awhile a hard brown shell forms on the maggots and from five to seven days the flies come out and are full grown.

Flies stay in manure and other warm places during the winter and the first warm day of spring they usually come out and are so stiff they can hardly get around and they do not try to fly. It is easier to swat them then than it is after they get warmed up.

Flies have hairy bodies and they