

Fly Rhymes of the Times

➤ FLIES have not long been the objects of loathing and fierce hostility that they are now. Older persons still living can remember a time when few houses had screens, and when flies were regarded as nuisances only when too many of them drowned in the milk or got stuck in the butter on the table.

Individual flies were even regarded as interesting objects of natural-history study, like birds or squirrels. This attitude is well exemplified in the well-known but now happily obsolete nursery jingle beginning:

"Baby bye, here's a fly,
Let us watch him, you and I!"

About the turn of the century, when the fly's true nature as a feeder on filth and a carrier of disease germs became better known, it ceased to be regarded as a fit inmate of the nursery—or of anywhere else in the house. Fly-swatters began to sell heavily in the five-and-ten-cent stores, and some one revised the old rhyme to go:

"Baby bye, here's a fly,
Let us swat him, you and I!"

But swat-the-fly campaigns were soon

demonstrated as inadequate by themselves to keep down the swarms of flies. Fly numbers in cities did diminish, but this was largely incidental to the development of the automobile and the disappearance from urban areas of manure piles, natural nurseries of flies. Some of the earlier insecticide sprays, based on pyrethrum and rotenone, were helpful, too.

Opportunity for a real cleanup came with the recent development of DDT as the killing ingredient of household sprays and area fogs. Where swatters slew their mere tens, DDT now slays its tens of millions. So the old jingle might well be revised again:

"Baby bye, here's a fly,
DDT him and he'll die!"

However, final victory in the war against flies depends not so much on the mass slaughter of adult insects as on mass prevention of their existence. This will come mainly from the cleaning up of their breeding-places in both city and country, plowing under of manure, burning or burial of garbage and other possible maggot-foods. When this has been accomplished, flies will become so rare that a final revision may be possible:

"Baby bye, here's a fly,
How the deuce did he get by?"

Science News Letter, June 26, 1948

MEDICINE

Community Bone Bank

➤ COMMUNITY bone banks, with deep freeze cabinets something like those in which families in many communities store food, will be established in the near future, if recommendations of Dr. J. R. Cobb of New York are followed.

Dr. Cobb's statement of the need for community bone banks to supply surgeons with bone grafts of every size and description appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (June 12).

Good results in grafting bones from banks are reported in the same issue by

Dr. Leonard F. Bush of Danville, Pa., and Dr. C. Zent Garber of New York.


In 104 bone graft operations, complications occurred in only four, they report. In 24 cases, the bone was grafted directly from donor to patient. In 37 it was grafted after being kept in a bank at a temperature slightly above freezing. In the other 43 cases, the bone had been stored in a deep freezer.

Science News Letter, June 26, 1948

Only the *driest areas* of America are free from poison ivy, poison sumac or poison oak.

ERRATA, Vol. 53, Nos. 1-26, January-June, 1948

PAGE	TITLE BEGINS	CORRECTION
6	Elm Disease Remedy	Col. 2, line 7, to read 47% of the crowns of the untreated trees; line 9, to read 29% of the crowns of the treated trees.
34	Fish Yield at Streams	Line 1, to read Adding farm fertilizer to a; Col. 2, line 1, Bank for water, two for three; line 4 to read Increases in the; line 5, were noted for took place.
38	Navy Doctors Join Safari	Col. 3, par. 5, line 6, Hoogstraal for Hoogstaaal.
74-75	Planets Illuminate Sky	January maps used.
91	Canals Retain Importance	Col. 3, par. 3, lockless sea level canal, see SNL, 3, p. 207.
111	Sex Influences Malaria	Line 7, B. E. for B. F.
119	Vitamin E Relieves Pain	Par. 2, Line 1, after called insert a lesion of the; line 2, delete or Dupuytren's contracture. Line 4 to read a lesion of the palmar fascia, or Dupuytren's contracture.
149	Science Talent Institute	Col. 2, line 20, chemistry for medicine and physiology.
151	Caption	Chemistry for medicine and physiology.
164	Dr. Wendell M. Stanley	Chemistry for medicine and physiology.
172	Atomic Particle Created	Line 8, 400,000,000 for 400,000.
180	Mass Detection of Cancer	Line 5, Medical College for Hospital.
309	Caption	First sentence to read: Details of unstained guinea pig intestinal wall revealed by phase microscope. For invisible read unclear. Photograph by Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Baltimore, Md.
342	Psychotics Have Defect	Col. 3, par. 4, line 1, after Cushing insert and Dr. Mary M. Cushing.
396	Plant Growth Compounds	Abdel-Malek for Abel-Malek.



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