

the draft carrying water vapor (in not very large quantities in this case) upwards to a level of cloud formation.

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FOOCHOW, CHINA,
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ENDOCRYPTA HUNTSMANI

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: My attention has been called to the fact that the generic name "*Crypta*," used on page 19, in my paper on "The Hydroids of the West Coast of North America," published May 13, 1911, as a bulletin from the Laboratories of Natural History of the State University of Iowa, had previously been applied to another genus. I shall change it, therefore, to "*Endocrypta*," a name that I believe has not been used, and one that is equally significant. The new species described should, therefore, appear as *Endocrypta huntsmani*.

C. McLEAN FRASER

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The House Fly—Disease-carrier. An account of its dangerous activities and of the means of destroying it. By L. O. HOWARD, Ph.D. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, Publishers. Pp. xx and 1-312; 40 figs. and 1 colored plate.

I am glad Dr. Howard starts his little book with a colored plate illustrating his subject, because it is a good one and because it explains, if we study it carefully, why, when we look at the fly with a good even if low-powered lens, it looks like a pretty combination of soft velvety browns and tans, while if you look at it with the unaided eye you see only a uniform pale gray. There are other, most excellent figures of the house fly, his various parts and stages in the book, a few of them original, most of them from good modern sources, and altogether the book is well and practically illustrated throughout, to the very last sanitary privy.

There is no doubt but that Dr. Howard knows his subject and no doubt either that he who reads it will learn much concerning the fly problem: he will marvel, however, at how

much we already know, at how much work has been done throughout the world and at how much is yet unknown and remains to be done.

Dr. Howard gives us the systematic position, the structure and the general development of the house fly, or, as he frequently drops into saying, the typhoid fly, and on these points he speaks with authority and from personal knowledge. In working over in detail the habits of the various stages he brings together the literature of the subject from practically all over the world and makes a very readable account of it indeed. It shows that the house fly has long attracted attention, everywhere.

In dealing with the adult stage, the function of the insect as a disease-carrier comes in for careful consideration and this part of the book is at once the most interesting and valuable. Dr. Howard is fully convinced of the culpability of his culprit, and he marshals the evidence against him in absolutely convincing form. I doubt whether it is possible to read this series of chapters or sections showing the connection between the various germ diseases and their transmission by fly agency without feeling that a genuine conservatism had animated the writer in his investigation. Antagonistic evidence is brought out and explained and a full bibliography of the subject is given.

It is surprising to find that the house fly has no considerable number of natural enemies capable of keeping it in check and that one of our most promising methods of control rests upon a partially unverified statement concerning the insect's life history.

By the lay reader those sections dealing with the practical handling of the pest will have the most careful scrutiny and these sections have been most carefully written. Dr. Howard has not only had personal experience with practical work in Washington; but has probably seen and conferred with every man who has had a real campaign to carry out. He is therefore very conservative in his suggestions and points out difficulties as well as successes. He also points out that actual number of flies alone, no matter how disgusting, is not always indicative of the presence of