

few days, at the request of Dr. Dawson and Mr. Vandusen, of the water works department, I visited the three cribs. The department launch left the harbor about ten o'clock of the morning of August 21, steaming directly to the nearest crib, a mile and a quarter out. Two house flies came out with the launch. A light breeze was blowing from the south, possibly six to eight miles an hour, and it carried the intensely acrid, sulphurous smoke of the city out over the lake. For nearly a mile out this smoke was so strong that it made my eyes smart and run tears, and quite possibly this low sheet of smoke may have had something to do with driving the flies out of the harbor. I found this first crib swarming with flies. In a lot caught at random I counted 41 house flies, 9 stable flies and 4 blue bottles.

From this crib we steamed out to the six-mile crib. Here the flies were even more numerous than on the first crib or even anywhere about the docks. My catch here was 10 house flies, 22 stable flies and 1 blue bottle. Possibly twenty stable flies followed us into the launch and over to the five-mile crib. My catch here was from a trap baited with sugar and water with a few drops of vinegar added: 4 house flies, 25 stable flies and 12 blue bottles.

Two crib tenders live on each crib, but there are no animals and there is absolutely nothing in which flies of any kind could breed. All garbage and waste matters are dumped immediately into the lake or are put into a tight incinerator and burned daily. Lake steamers pass within about half a mile of the cribs, but none of the men had ever noticed any evidence of flies coming from them. All the crib tenders maintain that a south wind brings a cloud of flies from the city and that a north wind carries them away. No smaller boats were anywhere near the cribs that day and seldom come near them.

The only explanation for the above facts seems to be that the flies are blown at least six miles off shore, and that they gather on the cribs as temporary resting places. Attraction of any other sort can not be a strong factor: else they would remain on shore, at-

tracted by the animals and men along the docks and the much richer food supply. While not entirely conclusive, the evidence seems strongly to support the theory that flies of the above kinds are able to travel much farther than is commonly supposed.

All the flies in the crib appeared to be ravenously hungry and it will not be difficult to trap the house and blue bottle flies as fast as they come. The stable flies bite most viciously, but they, too, enter the traps in numbers, and it is quite probable that all the flies on the cribs can be killed most easily with formalin bottles, 2.5 per cent. in a milk or beer or sugar and vinegar mixture, whichever may prove most attractive to them.

C. F. HODGE

THE WORD "FUNGUS"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: He is a brave man who openly throws stones at another man's domicile, even if he justify the act as altruistic, knowing the proverbial danger incurred. Certainly he should not be surprised by some return.

In SCIENCE of September 5 Dr. Dabney has justly taken exception to the use of the common expression "quite a few." But he has erred in calling it "slangy," "a malevolent fungus growth," or "a sort of fad." It is simply a colloquial term in certain parts of the country, and occasionally slips into dignified writing, as do other indefensible phrases. But they are not becoming established, as Dr. Dabney implies; the tendency is quite the reverse. When all scientific men shall have been recruited from the ranks of the learned, such unpleasant evidences of the survival of youthful derelictions of speech will have disappeared.

Having taken notice of Dr. Dabney's fling, I offer one in return. One must be doubly surprised to notice that in a criticism of a colleague regarding "good English," there occurs a lapse in "good grammar." What justification is there for the usage "fungus growth?" Possibly the phraseology is in recognition of the increasing demand for hyphenated substantives, with the hyphen dropped out. Or

the adjective *fungous* may have been intended, with the *o* accidentally omitted. Or could it be that the much abused word *fungoid* would have met the author's requirement? The use of words from the sciences demands caution from the general writer, but in a scientific journal there should be no lapse, certainly none from the pen of a critic. The word *fungus* with its derivatives is too often misused.

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QUOTATIONS

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FROM TWO POINTS OF VIEW

THE finest thing which civilization has yet produced is a great American university upon a private foundation. A company of gentlemen associate themselves and assume the obligation of providing the means for, and the organization of, an institution for the highest culture, not only without any pecuniary compensation to themselves, but giving freely of their time, effort and substance, and securing, in their aid, the countenance and contributions of their friends and fellow citizens, and a body of scholars, selected by this original association, who, sacrificing at the outset the prospect of worldly gain, devote themselves zealously and enthusiastically to the discovery of truth and its dissemination and to the making of character—such, in brief outline, is this great product of human evolution. No other nation on the earth has brought the like of it forth. It is the peculiar offspring of American conscience and American liberty. To have had an honorable part in the creation of such an institution is a privilege of the highest order and obligates the happy participant to render to his fellow-men an account of his experiences.—Dean John W. Burgess in the *Columbia University Quarterly* for September.

IN America there are three sexes—men, women and professors. It is the saying of European scholars looking from those self-governing democracies, their universities,

upon ours. They see ours ruled without the consent of the governed through presidential autocrats by boards of non-scholar trustees—not a part of the world of learning, but superimposed upon it. The American professor has the status of an employee subject to dismissal without trial by men not his colleagues.

The universities of Germany, the older universities of England and Scotland respect and trust and leave free the individual. Their organization gives them the right to regard themselves as provinces of the republic of letters. The overlorded universities of America have no such right.

For a couple of centuries American professors have submitted to a system which gives most of them little control over their own lives, small power to defend any truth which has powerful enemies, no part in shaping the policies of the institutions in which they teach. Hence the pitiable figure of the American scholar to whom Emerson, Emersonically oblivious of such little matters as despotic college government, held up a high ideal of independent manhood.

The position of her scholars under the thumb of business men and capitalists who control the university purse is enough to account for the fact that America is intellectually second rate. Unless content to remain so Americans have got to think down to bed-rock about university government and do what thought demands.

Feeling that something is wrong, we have begun to examine the life of our universities, but no general attention has centered as yet upon their inherited, undemocratic system of control which is bearing the fruit of timidity and subservience among those twenty-three thousand men and five thousand women whose social function is to create and transmit American thought.—George Cram in the *Forum* for October.

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