

The net result of these experiments would suggest that man has a bacterial population in his intestinal tract; that under normal conditions the organisms in the intestinal tract are fairly characteristic and constant; normally they are harmless; they may be protective; and that up to the present time it is practically impossible to get rid of them.

Attempts have been made to sterilize the intestinal contents, either by administering sterile food or by the use of antiseptics. Sterile food appears to reduce somewhat the numbers of intestinal bacteria, but the reduction is not great, and this line of experimentation has not been successful. Many different kinds of antiseptics have also been tried, and while various results have been claimed, the net result appears to be that the temporary reduction in numbers, which is frequently observed, is largely referable to increased peristalsis and quick removal of the intestinal contents. It has become apparent from these observations that the strength of antiseptics necessary to sterilize the intestinal contents would be sufficient to kill the host long before the bacteria were eliminated.

The intestinal bacteria may become a menace to the health of the host. Occasionally, adventitious bacteria, as the typhoid, dysentery, cholera, or paratyphoid organisms, much less commonly the tubercle bacillus, may gain lodgment in the intestinal tract, increase greatly in numbers, invade the tissues of the host, and, if care is not taken to sterilize the feces, produce progressive disease from host and host. From the individual point of view the intestinal flora under ordinary conditions are innocuous, and perhaps even to a moderate degree protective. Under abnormal conditions, when progressively pathogenic bacteria gain a foothold in the intestinal tract, the intestinal flora may become a menace to health and even to life.

The significance of the intestinal contents to man in general is perfectly obvious. The tremendous numbers of bacteria which can be excreted daily, particularly if they happen to be disease-producing, as typhoid, may become a matter of real concern to the health of communities, for the disposal of feces in a manner to render them innocuous is not a particularly simple matter. Once the intestinal bacteria have escaped into water supplies, or have gained access to foods, the progressive damage which may be brought about may be very great.

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PROTECTION OF BIRDS IN THE MALAY PENINSULA

DR. WILLIAM T. HORNADAY, director of the New York Zoological Park, has received the following letter, written on July 12, from the officers of the Dutch committee on the protection of birds, of which Dr. C. Kerbert, director of the Amsterdam Zoological Gardens, is chairman:

We are pleased to be able to inform you that the committee for the advancement of a prohibition of the export of birds and parts of birds from the Dutch Colonies has received from the corresponding member of the committee, Dr. J. C. Königsberger, director of " 's Lands Plantentuin" at Buitenzorg, Java, the following information about the shooting of birds of paradise:

1. This year (and probably also in future) the shooting is limited to these species: *Paradisea minor*, *Seleucidés nigricans* and *Ptilornis magnificus*. The export of skins of all other species is prohibited by the Dutch Colonial Government, and these skins have therefore no commercial value.

2. Shooting is *totally* prohibited in the islands of the "Radja Ampat" group (Misole, Salawatti, Batanta and Waigou), and in those of the Geelvink Bay in New Guinea, as well as in two large reservations on New Guinea, on both sides of the Geelvink Bay.

By these means the protection of the rarer birds of paradise is obtained, and we have every hope that in future the shooting of all birds of paradise will be totally stopped.

The three species not yet protected are the lesser birds of paradise, the twelve-wired bird of paradise and the rifle-bird. Inasmuch as bird protection continually gains in public favor, it is safe to predict that within a reasonable time all the birds of the Dutch East Indies will receive the complete protection that an embargo on exportations easily can afford. In this connection it is to be noted that on January 1, 1915, a law prohibiting the importation of wild bird's plumage for commercial purposes went into effect over the whole dominion of Canada, and thus the prohibition now covers North America north of Mexico.

REVERCHON PARK, DALLAS, TEXAS

At a recent meeting of the park board of Dallas, a tract of land of 36 acres recently purchased and provisionally named "Turtle Creek Park" was formally named "Reverchon Park" in honor of the botanical work of Mr. Julien Reverchon.

Julien Reverchon was born near Lyons, France, in 1837. When eighteen years of age he came with his father to America and settled in the French colony near Dallas. In France when fourteen years of age he had a collection of 2,000 species of plants. Throughout fifty years at Dallas up to his death in 1905 he continued active work in the collection and study of plants. The estimate of his worth and work is perhaps best given in the words of botanists who knew him well, as here indicated.

Dr. E. G. Eberle, intimately associated with him, here states:

It was largely due to his efforts that the Texas flora became known. He freely contributed botanical specimens to various institutions of science and learning, to the agricultural department of the United States and to the Smithsonian Institution. His collection included plants not only of Texas but of all parts of North America and foreign countries, totaling more than 10,000 specimens representing more than 3,000 species.

This collection was secured for the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1906.

Dr. Asa Gray many years ago in naming the genus *Reverchonia* referred to him as "a valuable correspondent, an acute and sedulous botanist."

Dr. Wm. Trelease, University of Illinois:

I, indeed, think that Dallas should commemorate in one of its parks the name of Julien Reverchon, a man of rare intelligence and enthusiasm whose work on the native plants of Texas and particularly of Dallas County, will long stand as of the fullest and best.

Dr. J. M. Greenman, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis:

The scientific value of Mr. Reverchon's botanical work is sufficient to insure his name a permanent place in the literature of the botany of Texas and the great southwest. Duplicates of his collections occur in many of the leading herbaria of the world.

Dr. Wm. L. Bray, Syracuse University (formerly professor of botany, State University of Texas):

... In the case of Reverchon, however, this naturalist instinct was, perhaps, of a more cosmopolitan character. He and his two brothers had been collectors over very wide areas. He was in a position to give discerning judgments as to plants and plant conditions in a territory toward which the eyes of people in both America and Europe were turned. A precursor of our modern ecological plant geographer, his was a notable life which had relation to the unworked field, on the one hand, and the working botanical centers, on the other. We have few such intermediaries nowadays, unfortunately.

Dr. John M. Coulter, University of Chicago:

I have your letter in reference to naming one of your parks "Reverchon Park."

It seems to me that nothing could be more appropriate, for to the botanists of the country the name of Reverchon has always been identified with our early knowledge of the flora of Texas. It seems to me that it would be regarded by the botanical fraternity in general as a very happy method of remembering a botanist whom Texas should not forget.

Dr. Charles S. Sargent, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.:

No one did more than Reverchon in exploring the flora of Texas. He made it possible for