

COLONIAL AND CAMP SANITATION

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Colonial and Camp Sanitation by George Vivian Poore

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COLONIAL AND CAMP SANITATION

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PREFACE

It has been represented to the author that the publication of a few extracts from his larger works might meet the wants of persons living in remote places in the Colonies or elsewhere, by furnishing them with correct principles of sanitation. The following pages have accordingly been taken from 'The Milroy Lectures' and 'The Dwelling-house,' as containing matter which is applicable to camp and colonial sanitation.

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CHAPTER I

THE SANITATION OF CAMPS—FLIES AND THE SCIENCE OF SCAVENGING¹

IN the recent debate² at the Clinical Society of London on Dr. H. H. Tooth's paper³ on enteric fever in South Africa it was established: (1) that the number of flies in our camps was prodigious; and (2) that these flies were largely a result of the military occupation. There seems also to have been a very general consensus of opinion (3) that flies may convey infection. It becomes therefore of great importance to consider the genesis of flies; and I trust that one who has no claims to be considered a dipterologist may be pardoned for recalling a few common facts.

Flies multiply at a prodigious rate. Given a temperature sufficiently high to hatch the eggs, their numbers are only limited by the amount of food available for them. Linnaeus is credited with the saying that three meat-flies, by reason of their rapid multiplication, would consume a dead horse quicker than would a lion, and the fact that certain diptera having some outward resemblance to the honey-bee lay their eggs in the dead carcasses of animals probably led Samson and Virgil to

¹ Reprinted from the *Lancet*, May 18, 1901.

² *Ibid.* March 16, p. 786, and 30, 1901, p. 932.

³ *Ibid.* March 16, 1901, p. 769.