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How Woman's Furs Spread Disease and Death.



Startling Discoveries by a Woman Scientist That Infection from the Animals Themselves, and from Many Disease Germs Which Are Collected by Furs, Is Invited by the Woman Who Wears Them

By Dr. Leonard Keene Hirshberg, A.B., M.A., M.D., Of Johns Hopkins University.

abolish, or materially limit, the world-wide industry which procures and prepares the skins of wild animals for human clothing. Woman's passion for furs is as deepseated as her love for precious stones as an adornment of her beauty, and seems to dominate her more and more. But by pointing out the many dangers of disease, and even death, which are proved to lurk in the many varieties of furs worn by women in all civilized countries it may be possible to limit these dangers by inspiring greater care in keeping fur garments clean-doing all that is possible in the way of keeping them free from their char-

acteristic sources of infection. Dr. Edith Carrington, of London, has just completed her scientific in vestigation of the menace that lurks in fur garments. The plain purport of her conclusions is, that so far as common sense, health, happiness and long life are concerned, little can be said in defense of furs-be they mink, sable, ermine, other or bear-

She gives scientific authority to the long-standing general belief that it is unnatural and unhygienic for human beings to wear furs. The most perfect coverings for the animals which bear them, when transferred, skin and all, for the clothing of woman they become the most imperfect. While they insure to the living animal ideal protection against changes of temperature combined with veutliation that is never impeded, when that dead, fur-covered skin is transferred to the human body there is undue and unwholesome protection against cold and a positive barrier against the needed circulation of the

outer air upon the wearer's skin. The most startling and valuable of Dr. Carrington's discoveries, however, relate to the actual menace of disease carried by nearly all furs. and which the process of curing and manufacturing into garments does She went to the length of investigating the habits of each fur-bearing animal, and the diseases with which each species is

For example, that painful and repulsive affection known as "ring-worm" has its origin in a kind of fungus rooted in the skins of several wild animals, and whose life is preserved indefinitely in furs. Dr. Carrington, experimenting with this fungus, found its power to infect unimpaired more than a year after it had

been planted in a fur garment. proved that the capacity of furs to harbor and preserve various microbes, moulds, spores and other

T is beyond reason to expect to forms of disease germs—especially mink, ermine, otter and sable-was a sufficient reason for women to leave furs severely alone. She fortified this argument by showing that such germs may survive the most rigorous use of camphor balls or tarred paper in attempts to keep furs uncontaminated during the Summer season.

There is no disputing the evidence adduced to prove the existence of such dangers to health in muffs and neckpieces. For Dr. Carrington, who is a skillful bacteriologist, obtained the following malicious microbes from the hairs of the furbearing animals. First there was found the ubiquitous pneumonia parasite. Then she discovered the bacillus of tuberculosis. Then the anthrax microbe, the source of the fatal woolsorter's disease. In turn she found the causes of such maindies as blood poisoning, erysipelas, tonsillitis, diphtheria, la grippe,

cholera and dysentery.

Certainly a formidable list, you must admit. If these do not dannt the brave women who wear or yearn to wear these expensive furs, then indeed they are worshippers at the shrine of Dame Fashion.

Moreover, the bundling up of the wrists, hands, neck and chest, the coddling and making tender the skin of these portions of the human body which nature intended to harden into a protective, tortoise like shell of defense, produce such a soft delicate texture to those coverings that the lightest breath of sir will at once, even indoors, cause chill which may result seriously. It is far from wise to so spoil a skiu that it no longer is capable of doing duty-protecting the body as was intended.

The moment any tissue or organ of your body ceases to serve its purpose, or is rarely called upon to perform its normal function, that instant does it begin to soften, deteriorate, and lose its strength.

Thus is it with the skin kept overwarm and tender by germ-laden Even were there no microbes present in the meshes of the muffs and neckpieces, they would be just dangerous to health and strength. For it is the enervating, weakening influence which does the damage; the germs then do their evil work, not before.

How often are these hot steamgenerating furs ever cleaned? Rarely more than once a year. Yet are veritable traps for dirt, dust and poisons. The very oils and preservatives in them help to hold the dirt and nourish the bacteria contain. Your stylish woman send her suits, her panuler



skirts, her underwear, her whole outfit to the cleaners every week. Not so her furs. They live and have their being in dirt and dust, week in and week out. .

Its

Owner

Subjects

Her to

the

Dangers

of Disease

and

Weakens

Her

Resistance

to Colds.

Furs, then, are an offensive and harmful absurdity. Not alone hotbeds for the breeding of bacilli, they pamper the toughest pachydermic

The Sketches Show the Typical Torture of Fur-Bearing Animals for Which Woman's Passion for Furs Is Responsible. Directly Above Is the Ermine, Then the Mink, the Seal, the Sable, Otter and Marten. Trappers Seldom Visit Their Traps More Than Twice a Week and in the Meantime the Captured Animals Suffer Unthinkable Agonies.

and most deticate epidermis. The normal skin that otherwise defends your blood and lungs from cold is thereby rendered permeable and Furs also serve to interfere by friction with the natural grace, poise and action of the neck and arms. Anything that limits or is an obstacle to movement is not only unattractive but destructive to that most necessary of vital activities, to wit, muscular exercise.

There is a widespread sentiment against the killing of birds in order that women may adorn themselves with their plumage. As a general thing these birds are not tortured in satisfying this fashion. Furbearing animals, however, are victims of trapping methods that are a disgrace to civilization. Dr. Carrington describes quite a number of

Seals are mild and intelligent animals of an affectionate disposition that have their existence mainly in the ocean. They are not fitted for land locomotion, and only in the breeding season are they out of the water for any length of time. Yet, when seals are hunted for their fur they are driven far inland to be killed. It is a painful journey, during which the poor animals suffer tortures.

The horrors of the method pur-sued in catching the little creatures which furnish the highly prized ermine seem incredible. These small creatures-the weasels of temperate zones—are trapped in semi-arctic regions during the winter, when the temperature is far below zero. This is the outrageous method: Pieces of

fron coated with grease are scattered on the snow-crust where the animals will readily find them. When they attempt to lick off the coat of appetizing grease their tongues freeze fast to the iron. Thus they are held until they freeze solld, or until the trapper comes to kill and release their dead bodies by cutting their

tongues out. Otter and mink are caught in steel traps set in the water courses which they frequent Often their legs are broken by the force of the steel jaws, and unless the trapper arrives soon to claim his prey, their tortures are terrible. Frequently the very frenzy of pain results in their escape-by amputating with their teeth the leg that the trap holds. The

marten is exposed to similar cruelties. The sable is tracked by its tiny footprints and chased by dogs, worried by them until captured, or driven into a tree from which it is dislodged by a long pole into a net

How a Woman by Burying Her Neck in Furs Weakens Her Throat, Infects Her Skin and Breathes Into Her ngs the Germs and Spores of Disease Which They Have Collected from the Air.

> From the moral standpoint, the greatest offense for which fashionable women are reponsible lies in the manner of obtaining the highly prized Persian lamb. The creatures which furnish human garments of this material are sacrificed, with their mothers, before birth. No lamb sufficiently developed to enter this world alive in the natural way is useful for the adorument of womankind.

> As already remarked, the use of furs as human clothing is indefensible from every standpoint. The moral side of the argument ought to be sufficient to stop the reprehensible practice; but morals, all down the ages, have escaped notice when it is a question of further adorning the female human form. Possibly, however, Mr. Carrington's demonstrations of the very practical dangers encountered by all who wear fur garments will have some effect-at least in the way of influencing greater care in keeping furs clean and free from disease germs.

Plant Fishes to Get Rid of By RENE BACHE THY not plant fishes to get rid Your Mosquitoes

If you are a farmer and have one or more ponds, if you are a suburban resident and there are ponds in your neighborhood, if you own a summer frome in the country and there is a pond near by. In any of these cases you are liable to be afflicted with the insect terrors that fly by night-not to mention those which do their best to make life miserable in the daytime.

* What are you going to do about it? Drain? The expedient is not always practicable. Use oil? It is an idea much advertised, but does not work very well If it be practicable to direct the flow of a small practice. Breezes blow the film of oil off the greater part of the water surface, and the "skeets" go on

The only really effective expedient (if you bar draining) is to plant fishes in the ponds. Most kinds of minnows are eager gobblers of mosquito wrigglers and pupae, and may be counted upon to clean out the

squitoes in short order, There are, however, certain species of little fishes, widely distributed over this country, which are specially adapted for the purpose in question. Notable among these are the sunfishes and "shiners" both ismiliar to every small boy. Certain rather tiny kinds of sunfishes are habitual haunters of vegetation in pond shallows, among which they find food, and, at the same

time, protection against larger fishes. Any boy knows where to find little sunfishes and shiners. All he needs in the way of equipment is a scoop net and a tin pail, to get as many as are wanted. They have merely to be dumped into the pond where their presence is desired, and, if mosquitoes are breeding there, they will soon put a stop to the business by gobbling up every wriggler or pupa before it has time to be transformed into the winged insect.

One should understand, however, that there must be some sort of vegetation growing in the pond. All animal life depends, directly or indirectly, upon plant life. Aquatic plants of all kinds not only attract insects of many species (whose larvae are eaten by the fishes), but harbor and encourage the multiplication of countless myriads of microscopic crustaceans and other ani-

malculae, likewise available as food, in such a pond the little sunfishes and shiners are bound to thrive. They will take care of themselves, and, when there are no mosquito wrigglers at hand, nature, through the medium of the piant life present.

will supply all the food they need. If, on the other hand, the vegetation is scanty, raw meat chopped fine or hashed earthworms (the latter a cheap diet) may be contributed. A stream running into the pond will soon stock it with little fishes, and with them will come various aquatic insects, including the larvae of certain beetles and of the dragon fly. These larvae, and also the "boat flies" and "water skaters," are themselves deadly enemies of the wrigglers of Anopheles, the malaria-carrying mosquito.

Together with the fishes and insects, plant life will find its way into the pond. But, supposing that no stream is available, unlimited supplies of microscopic crustaceans and other animalculae suitable for fish food may easily be obtained by dragging a net of bolting cloth from shore or otherwise, along the surface of any stagnaut pool. is the pond contains plants these minute animals will multiply in it. Some of them (infusoria) are so small that a single drop of water may contain 13,000,000 of them. An important neidental advantage of the plants is that, while affording shade and protection to the fishes, they supply

oxygen to the water. At the same time care should be taken to clean up the borders of the pond in order that mosquito wrigglers and pupae may not find safe harbors there, protected by vegetation and debris from attack by the The malaria-carriers are especially given to

propagation under such conditions. If it be asked how many sunfishes or shiners should be introduced into a pond of a given area, in order to prevent mosquitoes from breeding, the answer is that the fishes themselves will settle that question. A few are enough to start with, They breed rapidly, and within a short time will increase up to the limit of

food supply. Most small fishes are active devourers of mosquito wrigglers. A few sluggish and solitary species, such as the "mud minnow" and "pirate perch," which live among aquatic plants, are deadly foes to mosquitoes.

All things considered, the most efficient and desirable finny species for mesquito destruction are the socalled "top minnows"—the name derived from their habit of swimming and feeding at the surface of the water which are found in enormous numbers in the shallow margins of pends, streams and lakes, all the from Delaware southward to Florida. By reason of their numbers they are otherwise known as "millions," and in length they vary from half an inch to ar

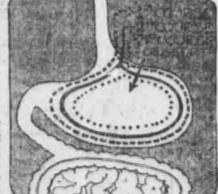
Why You Ought to Eat Your Dessert Last HERE is a sound physiological able flow of gastric juice are stim-

reason for making dessert the last course in a menu. The whole order of courses as found on the average American bill of fare was recently subjected to a keen analysis by Dr. R. S. Levenson, a well-known Western physician, and he found it to be in accord with physiological principles.

Discussing the composition of the ordinary banquet meal in the California Medical and Surgical Reporter, Dr. Levenson pointed out how well it is adapted to the re-

quirements of the stomach.
"The first course," he said, "consists of some article of food which appeals forcibly to our sense of smell, as caviar, sardellen, ancho vies or smoked satmon. This practice is, of course, in accord with the principles of digestion urst theroughly investigated by Parlow, who showed in his wonderful series of Diagram Showing How Food Lies in the experiments that the most potent Stomach in Layers, That Lat Eaten factors in the production of a favor- Lying in the Center.

uli which appeal to the various special senses, chiefly smell and taste. "Moreover, the taste of these articles as well as others commonly employed as one of the introductory



courses of a meal, such as oystec, lobster, clam or crab cocktail, salads and the various relishes, is such as to appeal forcibly to the sense of taste and thus produce an ahundant flow of 'psychical' gastric

"Though without any noteworthy amount of nutritive value, such foods are of great importance in digestion on account of their influence in inaugurating the flow of

gastric julce!" Dr. Leveuson points out a common fallacy regarding the manner in which food eaten at an ordinary meal finds its way into the stomach. The stomach is usually regarded a large hollow-organ in which all the food taken into it is churned

"To-day we know this is quite in-correct," he says. Instead of there being a general admixture of all the matter taken into the stomach. there is a layer-like arrangement in which the material first intro-

duced takes a peripheral position next to the gastric mucosa, that subsequently introduced taking a more and more central position.

"Only the material which lies next to the gastric mucous membrane is acted upon by the gastric juice; when the latter agent has sufficiently acidified and peptonized this, the slow wavy peristalsis of the fundus moves this peripheral portion into the pyloric antrum and thus the next layer comes into contact with the mucosa.

According to this process, the food last taken into the stomach is thus placed most centrally and is in this way protected from the action of the acid gastric juice for as long as several hours. It is this fact which gives us the reason for the carnohydrate food stuffs being placed at the end of the meal." Dessert mainly consists of car-bohydrates and for this reason is

properly served at the end of