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THE RULE OF DEMAGOGY.

The self-seeking demagogue starts out with the captivating doctrine of the rule of the people, but he ends with the dangerous despotism of one-man rule, the rule of himself. He seduces the unwary with his initial promise of the restoration of popular vote. And this is the easier to do by advocacy of schemes of direct government whereby the people are assured they may become their own rulers by the simple process of reducing to impotence their governors, their legislators, and even their judges. The people are to gain self-rule by destroying the independence and undermining the responsibility of the representatives they themselves have chosen to make, to interpret and to execute their laws. The initiative, the referendum and the recall thus lend themselves admirably to the demagogue's scheme of making himself an autocrat.

This scheme of direct government is today proclaimed as a mark of progressiveness in government. In fact, nothing could be more reactionary. It is as old as history. It was tried in ancient Greece and it failed. It was tried in ancient Rome and it failed. It led always to either anarchy or despotism.—*Dr. Jacob Gould Schuman.*

HOUSE-FLIES AND BACTERIA.

The ubiquitous house-fly stands convicted as a disseminator of pathogenic bacteria and a carrier of contagion. Ever since the investigation of the spread of typhoid fever in the United States military camps during the Spanish War of 1898, the evidence has been accumulating, until today there is no escape from the charges against this tantalizing insect. Every far-reaching probe into sanitary problems is liable to disclose conditions hitherto quite unsuspected; and the indictments already brought against the house-fly during the past few years charge responsibility for a long category of dysentery, diphtheria, erysipelas, contagious ophthalmia, cerebrospinal meningitis, anthrax and possibly small-pox, in addition to typhoid fever.

Whether all of these charges will stand in the light of scientific investigation remains to be seen. It is important, not so much in justice to the accused insect as because of the hygienic and prophylactic measures which are dependent thereon, that the questions here raised be authoritatively settled. In the case of the infections of fecal origin, particularly typhoid, the evidence appears to be quite complete. But are we not in danger of distracting attention from much more important factors by blindly encouraging a hyperenthusiasm for a single sanitary propaganda and fixing our hygienic viewpoint at a single center? This type of hysteria is by no means unknown in the history of public questions. It is constantly cropping out in the management of profound political and social problems. Perhaps it was with an appreciation of such tendencies that Dr. Torrey, of the Loomis Laboratory in New York City recently wrote:

“Although the guilt of the house-fly has been clearly established in certain instances as a typhoid-spreader, the relative importance of this vehicle of transmission as compared with the other well-known methods of transfer has been by no means clearly established. What is, perhaps, a timely warning of the danger, as regards the popular mind, of overemphasis being laid on this mode of transmission has recently been voiced by Chapin. He believes that unwarranted faith in the iniquity of these insects may lead to the neglect of the far more serious danger of contact infection, and that a failure of a decrease in the death-rate from typhoid after an enthusiastic antifly campaign would tend to bring discredit on the well-grounded warnings of health officers. It is probable,’ he concludes, ‘that under certain conditions, as in military and civil camps, and in filthy communities without sewerage, insects, especially flies, may be an important factor in the spread of fecal-borne diseases, but there is no evidence that in the average city the house-fly is a factor of great moment in the dissemination of disease.—*Journal A. M. A.*”