

went to the table with his fingers dirty. The children, by calling attention to his hands, caused him to leave the table and wash them. He said he'd "got the habit." Now he could not eat in peace until his fingers were clean. In one of the places where we stopped a woman who operated a grocery store where fresh meat, etc., were handled, was told that she must screen her place. She replied promptly, "flies didn't do no harm," and she did not believe in breathing "strained air."

We realize that in this educational work the co-operation of the doctors is most necessary, and, in courtesies shown us on the tours of the health cars, they have been most loyal. Almost without exception, in every place visited the coming of the exhibit is advertised, halls are provided for the evening program, and often automobile service offered the inspectors. The health officers, with few exceptions, are eager to have conditions investigated, and more than willing to have the State Board of Health assume the responsibility of telling in unvarnished truth and making application of the law.

Physicians and health officers often are aware of the dire need of enforcement of the regulations, but our system—if it can be called such—precludes their taking an aggressive attitude. Few men, in the interest of the public, will risk a lessened income—if they have families they owe them a duty first. Until our health officers are paid adequate salaries and physicians who do public work are assured of support in their public service, there cannot be thoroughly efficient health work.

The attitude of the public generally, and I regret to state, physicians also, toward patent nostrums is a case in point. The fraudulent claims of these companies are boldly flaunted in the pages of the public press. Because these columns are paid for, the poor and suffering are misled and deceived. It is difficult to get the support of organizations or individuals in the fight against this menace to health.

In Louisiana we have been fortunate in getting a bill passed which prohibits fraudulent statements of any kind relative to cures, devices, etc. We intend to do our part to have this law enforced, though in the beginning we realize it may not be a very popular movement.

THE CONDENSED SKIMMED MILK MENACE.

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How many of our American dairymen have paused to consider the invasion from the war zone which is already affecting one of our greatest agricultural interests? How many farmers know that there is a growing menace

to his dairy business against which he must speedily fortify? I refer to the canned milk industry in Europe that is already exporting to us in large quantities condensed skim-milk, and competing successfully with our own condensed whole milk. Shameful to relate, our American grocers are helping the invasion along.

For example, were you to go into a grocery today and ask for a can of condensed milk, the clerk would be very apt to carelessly call your attention to the fact that there is a Dutch brand which retails three cans for a quarter, a saving of three cents on each can. Nine cents is worth saving, you consider, and you immediately thank the clerk for the suggestion, taking the Dutch brand with his assurance, "It's just as good." But read the label on the can: "Condensed Skim-milk," and you immediately feel that you have been cheated. And so you have. This clever method of substitution is a trick of the grocer to sell an article upon which he receives a greater profit, and you are the unsuspecting victim.

Records show that in less than a year prior to the declaration of war nearly 100,000 cases of skim-milk product were imported to America. Then along came an American condensed milk manufacturer with an eye to competing with this European invasion.

Immediately he began to put out a similar product. Under our stringent pure food laws he was obliged to label his product "Condensed Skim-milk," but even so this announcement is as inconspicuous as possible.

The consensus of opinion among all reputable physicians is that if this product is to be sold, it should be labeled so conspicuously that all who buy it will see, "Not for Infant Feeding." Furthermore, the grocer should call the attention of the buyer to this, particularly if she is a woman, who no doubt contemplates feeding it to her baby. A skull and crossbones label might be more to the point if this milk is to be offered to mothers as a substitute for infant feeding.

Skimmed milk is all right in its place. We

all know that it is a by-product highly esteemed as a food for pigs and other domestic animals. All farmers realize its value in poultry feeding, and it is often fed to cows with good results; but they know that the "results" are only in proportion to the amount of the normal constituents of the milk retained after the cream is extracted. Skimmed milk contains the principal part of the nitrogenous constituents of milk, the greater part of the sugar, and a large quantity of its mineral matter which still makes it a valuable food product, lacking only the elements of fat. Were fat-supplying foods, such as nuts, olive oil, etcetera, eaten with skimmed milk, it would be a perfectly balanced food.

The chief objection of the laity against skimmed milk is that it so frequently masquerades as whole milk, as does the Dutch product, and even the new American output; for despite the label which our pure food laws insist upon, the gullible public rarely reads or comprehends this fact. We seem willing to be duped, if we pay a little less for the imposition—quantity rather than quality overruling. False economy is causing much misery in the world.

While European countries are passing through this great crisis, that has already been ruinous to their industrial and financial interests, now is the time for us to fortify against invasion to our own interests. The American dairy-farmer should grasp this opportunity to intrench his business against the foreigner's attack, such as that of the skimmed milk industry. Why let Europe usurp one of our greatest agricultural achievements? Is it not worth protecting and fostering, when we consider that our condensed and evaporated milk industries use about 1,300,000,000 pounds of whole milk each year, which at the average price of \$1.56 a hundredweight paid by the condensers to dairymen gives a \$20,000,000 business to the dairy farmer? According to an authority, our total output of butter, cheese and condensed milk is valued at \$600,000,000. Our total production of orchard fruits is

valued only at \$140,000,000 a year. These figures speak for themselves.

Yes, surely now is the time for the American dairy-farmer to study the condensed and evaporated milk supremacy in Europe and post himself as to our own economic inefficiencies, thus showing us how to protect, foster and intrench before it is too late.

FILARIAL INFECTION—AN INVESTIGATION OF ITS PREVALENCE IN CHARLESTON, S. C.*

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The object of this paper is to emphasize: First, the prevalence of filarial infection in the South; second, the advantage of using a method of concentration of the blood, so that larger quantities may more readily be examined in searching for microfilaria; third, the relation of symptomatic filaria, by general consent called "filariasis," to filarial infection.

Filaria is known to be a common parasite in many tropical and subtropical countries, according to Manson¹, being found indigenous as far north as Spain in Europe and Charleston, S. C., in the United States of America, and as far south as Brisbane in Australia.

In China from 10 to 50 per cent of the people harbor the worm. In India, in one district alone, about one-third carry microfilaria. In Samoa one-half of the natives, and in the Friendly Islands, according to Thorp,² per cent harbor the filaria. On the Island of Guam, from an examination of 244 individuals. G. B.

*Read in Section on Medicine, Southern Medical Association, Eighth Annual Meeting, Richmond, Va., November 9-12, 1914.