



Miss Marguerite M. Herr, left, president of the Altrusa club, and Miss Verna Stanton, Durham county home demonstration agent, who are providing the leadership for Better Homes week in this county.

Superintendent Of Health Links Disease And Insects

Epperson Urges Proper Containers For Garbage To Avoid Flies And Disposal Of Cans To Prevent Mosquito Breeding

By J. H. EPPERSON
Superintendent of Health

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During the week of April 24 to April 30, which is known as Better Homes week, the Altrusa club of Durham and the Home Demonstration agent will sponsor a clean-up campaign for the city and county with the hope that many unsightly as well as unsanitary premises may be made more pleasing to observe. The personnel of the health department will lend their unlimited cooperation to this movement and urgently request the entire citizenship to join hands with all concerned to the end that the objectives will be largely accomplished.

While this campaign is designed largely in the interest of the removal of refuse and rubbish which has little or no sanitary significance. I would like to take the opportunity to point out certain conditions which, if not corrected, will have a distinct bearing on the health status of the community. I refer particularly to conditions which encourage the propagation of insect life which are the specific carriers of disease. In the first place the improper depositing on the premises of kitchen waste may be a source of fly breeding. The open garbage receptacle with its decomposing foods encourage the propagation of the common house fly. Therefore, to properly take care of this material each home should have a heavy metal receptacle with tight fitting lid into which should be introduced all kitchen waste intended for removal by the city collection service. The lid should be kept on this receptacle at all times in order that flies may not have

ingress and egress and also to prevent water accumulating in the can during rainy periods. A receptacle of from 12 to 20 gallons capacity is preferable for the average premises because a larger can would handicap speedy handling on the part of the collectors.

Discarded kitchen utensils, tin cans, fruit jars, or any other kind of receptacle which will hold water should not be promiscuously deposited about the premises. Even minute quantities of water accumulated during rains in these receptacles will be the cause of infesting a whole community with mosquitoes. A light barrel or a wash tub may be used for depositing such discarded cans and utensils for removal by the refuse collectors. Your attention is particularly invited to the importance of not permitting such receptacles to remain on your premises and in the open because of the mosquito hazard which will result.

In the very near future the vacant lot and abandoned garden with its dense growth of weeds will be in evidence. Such places are excellent harboring places for mosquitoes and other pestiferous insect life. A small amount of water in discarded cans and other receptacles will propagate hoards of mosquitoes that use the weedy areas to roost in during the hot period of the day in order that they may be ready with the coming of the evening to spread their deadly and annoying venom to human beings. If you wish to be free from this pest, it is only necessary to see to it that no stagnant water remains on your premises and that all useless vegetation is removed in order that the harboring place may be destroyed.

In connection with this campaign the importance of cleaning the interior of the home as well as the exterior premises should be emphasized. In numerous instances basements may be found with accumulations of stagnant putrid water over which the occupants of the household live and carry on their daily routine. Such conditions are not conducive to healthful living and should be corrected. In other instances defective plumbing appliances are in evidence which may be constantly discharging deadly sewer gas into the kitchen or bath room. Such conditions should be remedied without delay. Kitchens frequently become infested with water bugs and roaches which creep about from food receptacles to refrigerator carrying with them whatever harmful matter may be deposited upon their bodies. These insects are very easily eradicated if it is the will of the householder concerned to do so. Living quarters of the residence should be cleaned at periodic intervals by removing rugs, curtains and draperies and thoroughly cleaning same and then finally clean and disinfect woodwork, floors and walls.

In further connection with this campaign I would specifically urge the co-operation of all citizens in properly preparing refuse for the collectors. All wet garbage should be placed in the metal covered receptacle as heretofore mentioned. Cans and dry refuse may be placed in any medium size receptacle convenient for the collectors to handle. Both receptacles to be

placed at a convenient point on the premises so that removal may be facilitated. By so doing you will greatly aid the service in making this campaign the success it should be.