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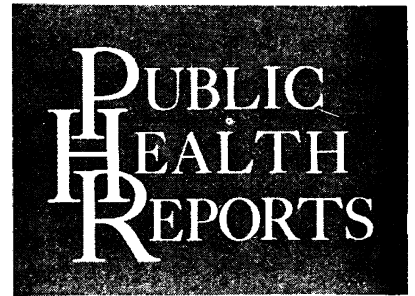
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39 pages. A summary and information on availability appear on pages 1033-1034.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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Diarrheal Disease Control Studies

I. Effect of Fly Control in a High Morbidity Area

By JAMES WATT, *Surgeon*, and DALE R. LINDSAY, *Scientist*¹

Common consent for years has ascribed to the fly a major role in the spread of enteric infections. Evidence for this belief was incomplete and did not permit an evaluation of these insects as disseminators of disease. The development in recent years of more potent insecticides, particularly DDT, made it possible to plan and carry out an experiment on a broad scale designed to answer the following questions: (1) Can flies be controlled in urban populations by insecticidal methods under the limitations of action imposed by civilian life? (2) What effect, if any, will such control have on the acute diarrheal diseases of the community, particularly those caused by specific infection with the *Shigella* and *Salmonella* groups of micro-organisms?

The basic needs for such a study were: An area with a significant amount of infectious diarrheal disease; a major fly problem; and geographic location which would permit division of the human population along natural lines into two comparable areas, one to be treated, the other to be left untreated for comparison purposes. This latter condition was essential, since it is known that variations in diarrheal disease rates greater than 100 percent occur from year to year and season to season.

Plan of Study

Such an area was found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and at the request of Dr. George W. Cox, State Health Officer, and the local officials, Hidalgo County was selected as the study area.

¹ From the Division of Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, and the Entomology Division, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

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In the first controlled study of the role of nonbiting flies in human disease, Dr. James Watt and Dr. Dale R. Lindsay presented evidence on the importance of flies in the transmission of bacillary dysentery.