## Rats as Household Pests

You are all familiar with rats scampering to live with man and to evade their enemies. across the floors of your houses. Perhaps most of you keep cats as the natural defense against there is much food in and about it which they these common household pests. Or on the other may eat. Rats delight in open garbage cans as hand you may tolerate them with indifference flies and cockroaches do. If everything is kept in your home, which is not right. For rats and clean and covered there is less attraction for rats. mice are the carriers of one of the most terrible diseases known to men.

to get food they enter our houses. They eat soned and even the persons living in the house every kind of food and they destroy much and in other houses. Poisoning of rats is not food and other property.

They destroy everything they come in contact with such as food crops, merchandise. clothes, and house furniture: they eat fruits, vegetables, rice, sugar, meat, and young chickens: they ruin industries, farms, embankments. They are nocturnal in their habits, which means that they are active at night.

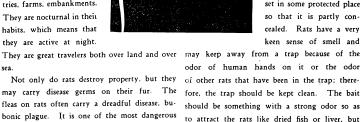
may carry disease germs on their fur. The fore, the trap should be kept clean. The bait fleas on rats often carry a dreadful disease, buhonic plague. It is one of the most dangerous of human diseases because few people ever recover from it.

There are several kinds of rats. Some of them climb up to the ceilings and nest there while others grow and multiply in the ground holes they are killed so that the fleas that may be on pidly. They are also very clever, knowing how are dead and carry disease to them.

Rats are often attracted to a house because

The best way to get rid of rats is to trap them. It is very dangerous to try to poison Rats live in filthy places, but often in order them, for chickens, cats, and dogs may be poi-

> practical because they may die in places we cannot reach, rot there, and give a foul odor to the house. Rats are very cautious and are easily frightened. Therefore the trap should be covered with an old piece of cloth or it may be set in some protected place



Rats should be buried or burned as soon as or dug-outs. They grow in number very ra- them will not go to human beings after the rats

corn, rice, vegetables, or other food may be

