

## The Bed Bug

There is a tiny creature that sometimes lives in our house and even shares our own bed, pillows, and mosquito net with us. And when we are soundly asleep, quietly it creeps to us and we wake to find ourselves bitten by the bed bug. If we go after it and succeed in crushing it with our fingers even in its death it leaves a very disagreeable memory—its odor. Who among you have not had the experience of comfortably being seated reading in a rattan chair and suddenly jumping up as if pricked by a needle from behind or below? But it is only our dear friend the bed bug again which has a great fondness for human blood. In addition to their robbing us of rest and sleep it is also known that bed bugs carry some kinds of disease from one person to another.

Bedbugs easily get into the house. They may be brought on the clothes of visitors or by you who may have them from other homes or from seats in public places. Bedbugs have no wings but they have the natural tendency to go from place to place.

During the day bedbugs hide away in dark cracks where it is difficult to find them or between

the slats of bamboo or rattan chairs. Here they lay their eggs in batches of a few to forty or fifty.

It is difficult to get rid of bedbugs once they get into the house. For this reason you must

watch all the time that your homes do not become infested with these pests.

In case bedbugs do get into the house the best way to get rid of them is to thoroughly clean all mats and other bedding and place them all day in the sun; then pour boiling water in large quantities in all places where bedbugs may be hiding. Be sure the water is boiling in order to kill the bedbugs and the eggs.

Sweep the floors everyday with stiff brooms in order to get at the cracks between the floors. Then spray petroleum on the hiding places in the floor and walls or chairs. One good cleaning should be followed in about a week or ten days by another good cleaning so as to kill all the bugs that have hatched from the eggs that were not killed. If these young bugs are not killed they will lay eggs and the house will soon be as full of bedbugs as it was at first.

The only way to keep a house free from bedbugs is constant watchfulness and frequent use of water and petroleum. Remember that your neighbor may get bedbugs from you or you may get them from your careless dirty neighbors. Remember, too, that clean housekeepers may sometimes get a few bedbugs in their houses, but that only the lazy, shiftless ones keep them there.

