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THE OBJECTIONABLE TIN CAN.

The following article headed "The dangerous tin can" appeared recently in the *American Scientist*:-

"The expert malaria investigators of the United States Public Health Service have found that discarded tin cans containing rain water are breeding places for the mosquito which is the sole agent in spreading malaria. Tin cans should not be left about the yard of the home or factory; for they may lead to sickness and even death. But if cans cannot be disposed of and must be kept in the premises, each can should be punched with one or more holes in its bottom so that it will not hold water."

The undersigned recently spent the hot weather and rains in Maymyo (Burma). Which, in spite of being a hill station, can give points to some plains stations as regards prevalence of mosquitoes. These mosquitoes, though annoying and relentless blood-suckers, do not propagate malaria. They belong to the genera *Culex* and *Stegomyia*. They were found breeding almost exclusively in tubs and other vessels of water left lying exposed in or near compounds but especially in old tins, numbers of which are usually found thrown away in the jungle near each bungalow. No larva of malaria-propagating mosquitoes (*Anopheles*) were found breeding in these tins and, in fact, it is unlikely that they ever do breed in such receptacles. *Anopheles* larvae are usually found among water weeds along the banks of sluggish streams. There are many suitable breeding grounds for *Anopheles* in Maymyo; but, fortunately for some reason, this genus is not common there. It would certainly make Maymyo and other similar stations more attractive if steps were taken to eliminate the tin nuisance.

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