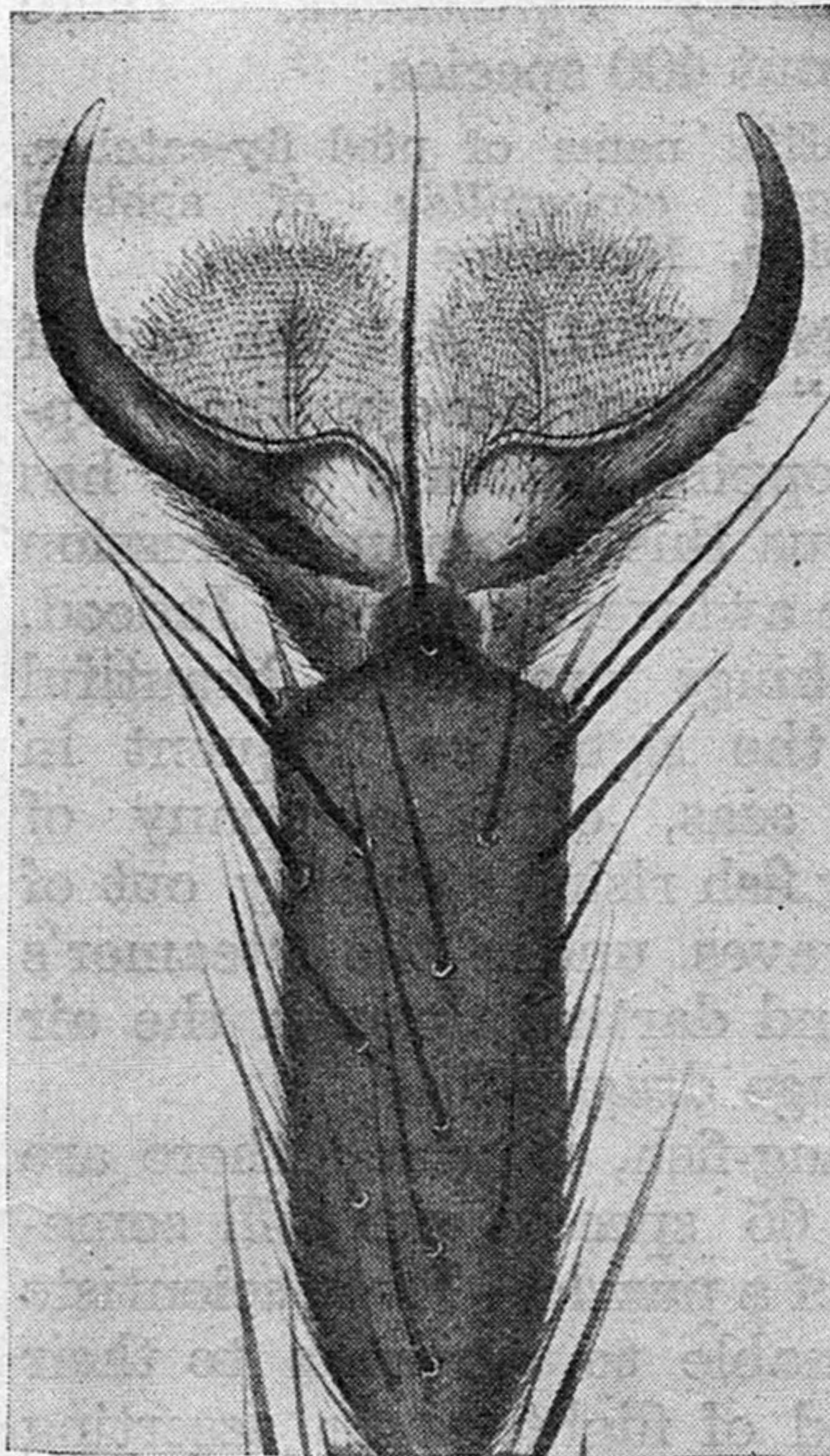


FLY. One of the deadliest of all creatures is the common buzzing house-fly, found wherever mankind dwells.

Catch a fly and look at it through a magnifying glass. You will see that its claws and padded feet are covered with bristling hairs, that the body is a mass of hairs, that the greedy tongue is spread over with sticky glue. If you could look through a powerful microscope, you would probably find that on those hairs and mixed up with that glue are deadly bacteria—

perhaps germs of typhoid fever, tuberculosis, dysentery, and a score of other diseases; for this "harmless insect" has probably just visited some infected dust-bin or refuse heap.

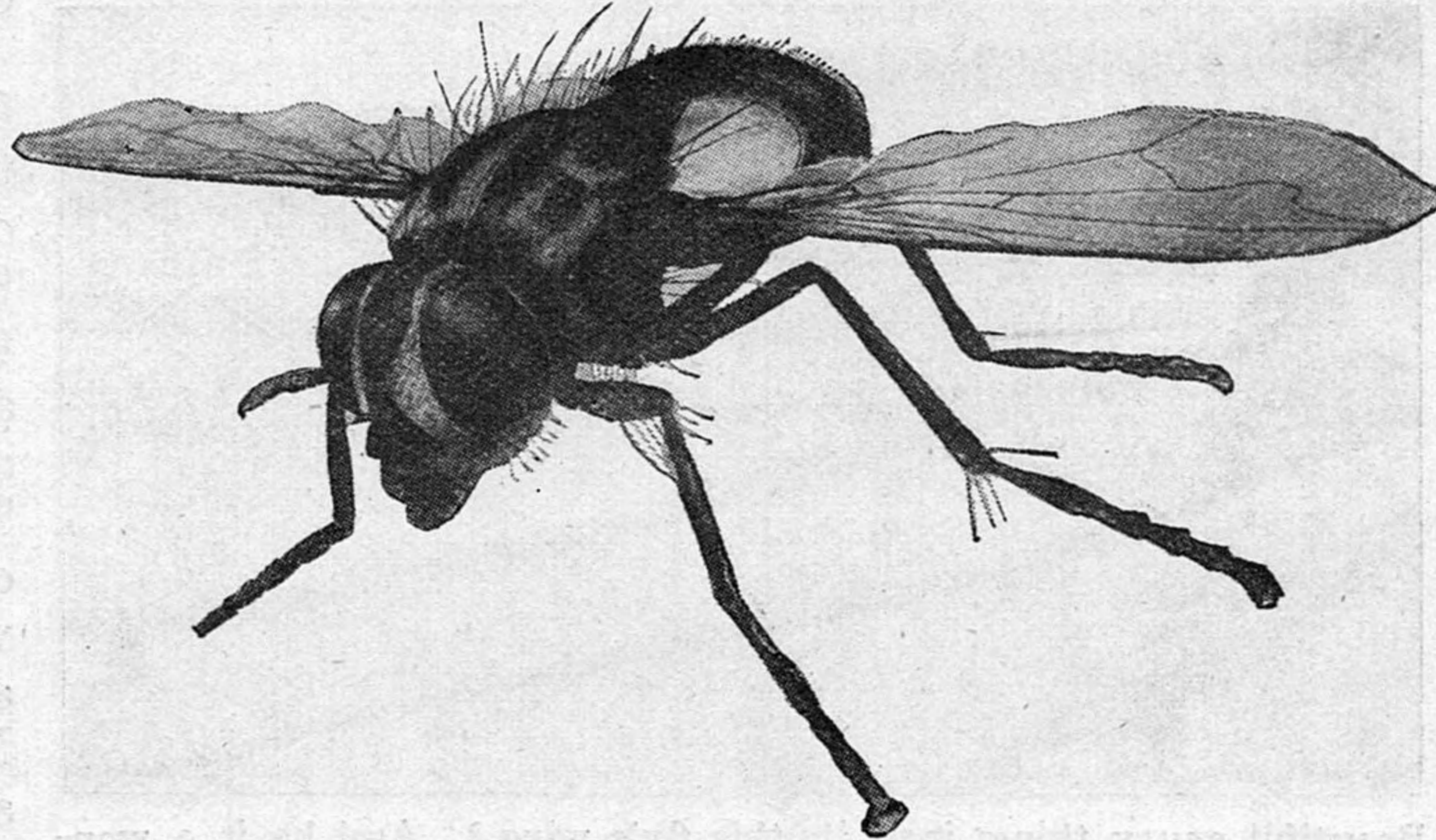
A GERM CARRIER



A fly's foot looks like this under the microscope. Those two horns are claws, and those two pads beneath them enable the fly to cling to a window-pane or walk upside down on the ceiling. On these pads disease germs frequently are collected, and they are transferred to your food when the fly walks over it.

So, if you would put down flies, do not let them breed. If people would not allow filth to gather there would be no flies.

A DEADLY ENEMY OF MANKIND



This House-fly has been considerably enlarged in the picture. But if we showed him as big as an elephant, it would not be out of proportion to the harm he does in the world.

Killing flies, except in early spring before the breeding season has begun, is almost useless. The number of flies is not so much regulated by the number of grown specimens that escape the "fly-swatter" as by the number of suitable spots the female fly can find in which to lay her eggs. She will lay them in any filth, and if necessary she will use a dust-bin, a drain, or any other place where filth accumulates, usually not more than 200 to 300 yards from the place where she spends her life.

Let us trace the short life of a house-fly. Each year a certain number of flies and their larvæ live through the winter. As soon as the warm weather appears, the female, who has been

hanging behind a picture moulding or a bit of torn wall-paper, comes out and looks for a place to lay her eggs where moisture and filth exist together.

In one day, the first batch of about 150 eggs has hatched into small white larvæ or maggots. After about five days each maggot goes into the pupa stage, in which

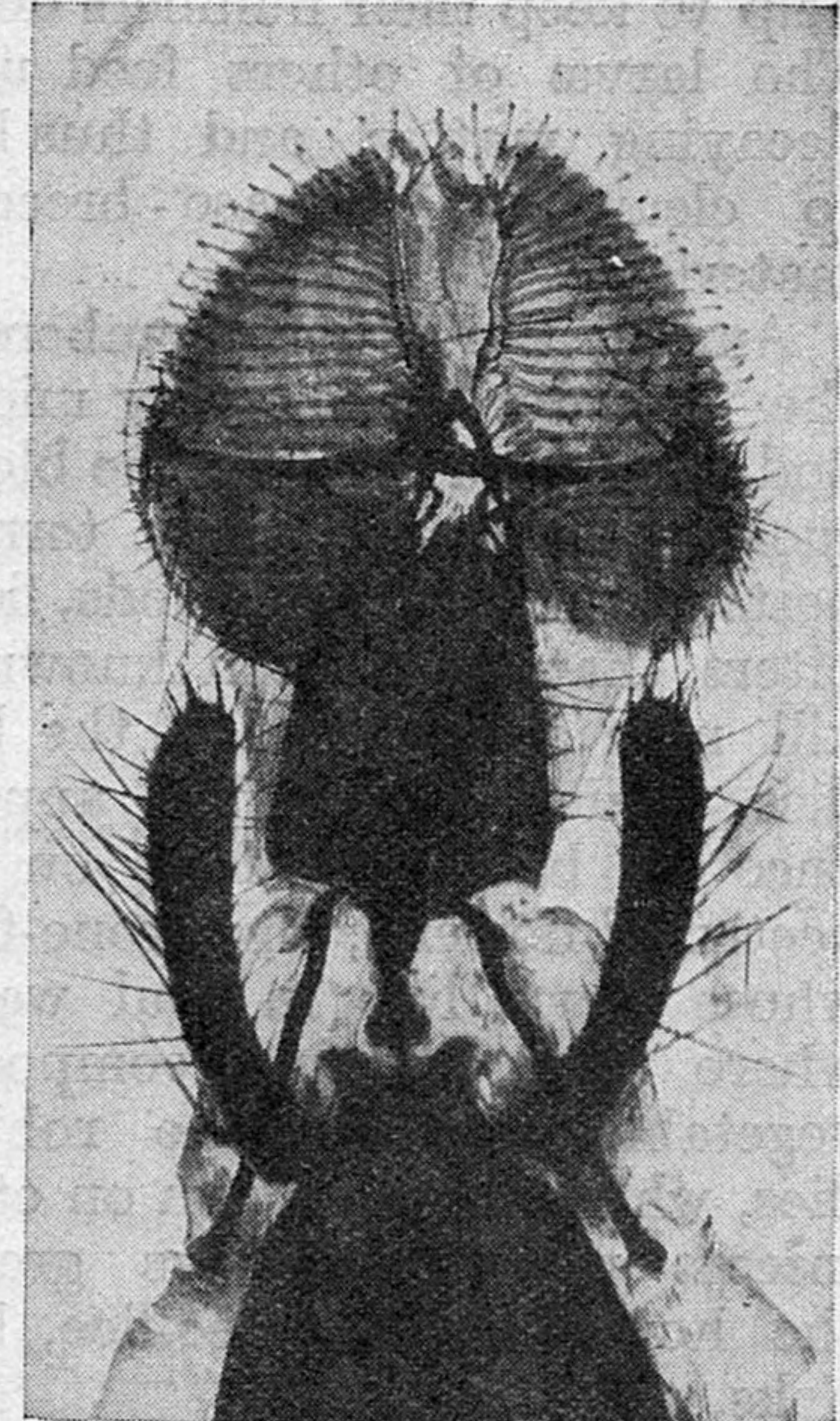
the baby fly is wrapped in a tough protecting shell. About five days later a full-grown fly emerges from each chrysalis.

Since the maggots, which develop in only a few days, can travel considerable distances, the only way to check fly-breeding is to remove garbage and manure twice a week, if these articles are not screened or treated with chemicals to destroy the eggs.

It has been computed that between April and September one female house-fly might have 5,598,720,000,000 descendants if all her female offspring lived and started laying eggs in proper time. Of course they do not all live and lay eggs, but enough of

them survive to help make the human death rate from typhoid about five times as great during the summer fly-season as it is during the winter months, when the flies are not active.

THE FLY'S TONGUE



With this tongue of his the fly dabs at our food. It is here shown flattened out for examination under the microscope. It is made up of very tiny tubes opening into two larger tubes which connect with the mouth. The fly feeds on liquids only.