



SCABBY SORES

(impetigo) in School Children

Impetigo is commonly met with in children. It affects principally the exposed parts of the body—such as the face, hands, knees, and appears in the form of sores, covered with thick crusts or scabs, and frequently discharging matter. It is contagious, and spreads by direct contact or by infected articles, and is commonly spread about a child's body by scratching a sore and then scratching some other part of the body.

PREVENTION

The nails should be kept short and clean; each child should have his or her own towel, handkerchief, and mug, and should not use those of other children. They should be warned against putting penholders, pencils, etc., in the mouth.

Parents are advised to seek prompt treatment and cure for Impetigo. If untreated it will spread rapidly both on the infected child and to other members of the household and can be responsible for scarring. Parents should consult their own doctor in regard to treatment but should medical advice be unobtainable the following method of treatment is advised.

TREATMENT

(1) *Remove all Scabs.* Do this by soaking a piece of cotton wool in warm olive oil and placing on the sore for fifteen minutes. After softening, the scab can easily be removed.

(2) Then apply a little white precipitate ointment to each sore and keep it covered with a clean bandage. If white precipitate ointment is not obtainable some simple antiseptic ointment such as boric acid ointment may be used.

The treatment should be repeated twice daily until all sores are completely healed.

Exclusion—If the sores are kept covered by a clean dressing, affected children may be allowed to attend school; otherwise they should be excluded until the skin is quite free from sores.

Fleas

Fleas, which may have come from infected rats, should be destroyed in all dwellings and business premises. The floors and walls should be sprayed with an insecticide, or sprinkled with an emulsion of kerosene and soft soap in water, prepared as follows:—

Stock Emulsion—Take 25 parts of kerosene, 1 part of liquid soap, and 5 parts of water. A little eucalyptus may be added if desired. Shake well together.

For use, dilute this stock emulsion in the proportion of two tablespoonsful to a pint of water. Sprinkle it from a spray, or from a watering can with a fine rose.

Powdered naphthalene sprinkled over the floor and especially into cracks between the boards is of value in destroying fleas. It may be left overnight, the room being kept closed, and that which is swept up in the morning can be used over again.

Liquid insecticides are also effective in killing fleas. A reliable brand, containing at least a 4 per cent. solution of D.D.T. gives the best results.

Dogs and Cats

Dogs and cats should be kept free from vermin. Dogs should be washed with a disinfectant solution, or they may be dusted with an effective insect powder. Their kennels should also be frequently cleansed with kerosene emulsion or dusted with insect powder.

Apply to your local Council or Shire for any assistance you need in fighting the rat.



Barry Stanley and his wife-to-be, Kathleen Pholi, of Ipswich, Queensland, formerly of N.S.W.