



The Care of Children's Hair

The hair of children is liable to get in an unclean condition owing to infection by small insects known as head lice. These insects live on the head, and their eggs commonly called "Nits", will be found as whitish specks firmly glued to the hair, especially about the nape of the neck.

The condition is likely to spread wherever children play together, so that even clean children of the most careful parents may become infected, but with proper treatment and a little trouble it can be got rid of readily. It should never be neglected, as it may lead to the formation of scabs and sores on the head and enlarged glands in the neck.

DIRECTIONS FOR CLEANSING THE HAIR AND KEEPING IT CLEAN

It is not sufficient to get rid of all living parasites from the head, the eggs or nits also must be completely removed from the hairs, as any live nits will hatch out in about eight days and so keep the trouble going.

To cleanse the hair the following directions should be carefully carried out.

(1) Take equal parts of eucalyptus oil and olive oil. Mix well and thoroughly saturate the hair and scalp. Wrap the head in a towel and leave for eight hours or overnight. Next morning wash the head well with hot water and soap and after drying, thoroughly comb with a fine toothed metal comb to remove the dead lice. The removal of nits may be facilitated by dripping the comb in vinegar before each re-comb.

OR

Take an equal part of olive oil and kerosene. Apply as above but remember kerosene is highly inflammable and must not be used near fires or naked lights.

OR

Ten per cent. DDT powder may be dusted through the hair. Two or three applications are needed in seven days and hair should not be washed for at least ten days. At the end of ten days the hair should be shampooed and lice and nits should be removed by a fine toothed comb. Ten days after the first treatment is completed a further application of DDT powder should be applied to the hair. This will destroy any lice missed in the first treatment.

DDT and oil must never be used together.

All children in the same household should receive treatment at the same time. This will prevent the infection spreading to "clean" children in the household.

(2) Hats and caps must be treated at the same time as the child, otherwise re-infection will occur.

Method

Ten per cent. DDT powder may be dusted into hats or caps;

OR

Hats may be well wrapped in newspaper (to prevent scorching) and baked in the oven for one or two hours.

After doing this, hats and caps should be lined with some washable material such as calico or linen, during the treatment of the head.

(3) Combs or brushes may also transmit infection. These may be cleaned by soaking in a hot phenyl solution (one tablespoonful to one cup of water) or a solution of Cyllin (one teaspoonful to the pint).

(4) Hair should be kept short or plaited to prevent infection.

(5) Children should be cautioned against exchanging hats or caps, or brushes or combs as this helps to spread the infection.

EXCLUSION

Children are excluded from school until the hair is completely cleaned and neither lice nor nits are present.



Pretty little Sheila Drew, of Condobolin, with her favourite pet, Jerry the cat