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ADVERTISE IN THE EVENING TELEGRAM.

Ivy Poisoning: How to Treat it

Washing the poisonous oil off is the only way to get rid of it when it has been transferred to the skin from an ivy plant, we are told by Albert A. Hansen in The Nature Magazine. The ivy poisoning is the commonest form of plant poisoning, he says, there is a sad lack of reliable information and an overabundance of misinformation on this subject. The poison is due to a powerful non-volatile oil that is most apt to enter through the open skin pores when the victim is perspiring. Many are almost immune when the skin is dry, but as soon as the pores are open, the poison is apt to take effect. Many persons believe that they are immune to ivy poisoning, but immunity is rare, although there is great variation in the degree of susceptibility. Mr. Hansen goes on:

"Another common impression that is probably erroneous is that the wind may carry the poison. There is but little doubt that contact with the leaves or stems of the ivy plant is necessary before inflammation develops, although contact with clothes or other objects that have touched the poison ivy is frequently sufficient to cause trouble. Furthermore, the smoke from burning poison ivy will carry the poison and may cause severe inflammation of eyes, nose, mouth and throat."

"Do not take any stock in so-called remedies for ivy poisoning, since the sad truth is that no remedy exists for this disease. There are more supposed remedies and cures for ivy poisoning than for almost any other ailment, due to the fact that the poison will naturally run its course and disappear. The particular remedy in use at the time it disappears is naturally thought to be a genuine cure, but the chances are that it will not work the second time, because of a variation in conditions."

"What, then, is the best treatment? At the outset, it should be understood that ivy poisoning is frequently a serious matter that should not be trifled with. Cases of death from this cause are on record. If the poisoning is severe, a physician should be consulted without delay. The first thing to be done in case one is aware of having been in contact with poison ivy is to attempt to wash off the dangerous oil before it has an opportunity to penetrate under the surface of the skin. This can be done by repeated washings with cheap laundry soap. Expensive toilet soaps are not suitable for this purpose. Exercise care not to drive the poison inward with a brush or by hard rubbing. If the washing has been thorough the chances are that poisoning will not set in. Even after the small skin pustules begin to appear, a great deal of the poisonous oil can still be washed off by careful and painstaking work."

After the skin eruptions are well developed, the main effort should be directed, Mr. Hansen tells us, toward preventing the spread of the poison by means of the finger-nails and in other ways, which may occur while the patient is asleep. Many secure almost immediate relief by the simple method of bathing the poisoned area in plenty of hot water. He continues:

"Allow me to issue a note of warning against making use of sugar- or lead-based ointments for the treatment of lead poisoning setting in, and lead poisoning is even more dangerous than ivy poisoning. Even zinc oxide, another favorite remedy, should not be used until the spread of the disease has been checked and the open sores have commenced to heal."

"There is a common impression that desensitization to ivy poisoning can be secured by chewing a poison ivy leaf in the spring. As a matter of fact, there is good reason to believe that there is no reliable means of securing desensitization, and attempts in this direction may end disastrously."

"The best way to solve the poison ivy problem is to destroy the plants growing along fence rows and in other waste places. This can be done by cutting the plants close to the ground and saturating the roots with waste motor oil or with heavy brine made from agricultural salt. Table salt is not effective for this purpose. Another simple method is to employ a person, not readily susceptible, to pull out the creeping roots following rain, when the ground is soft; but heavy gauntleted gloves and an old suit of overalls should be worn while the work is being done. It should not be forgotten that the poison will cling to the clothes for an indefinite period. Furthermore, the dead, dried ivy plants are also dangerous of themselves."

"Sumac poisoning is caused by a close relative of poison ivy and is similar in nature, but more virulent. The treatment is the same as for ivy poisoning. Poison sumac grows in wet places only, although sometimes found along roadsides and in other places that are wet only during the spring months. Incidentally, the young spring growth of both poison ivy and poison sumac is more dangerous than the older parts of the plants."

"In conclusion, it should be emphasized that ivy poisoning is a dangerous, painful affliction, and needless exposure to the danger is foolhardy in the extreme, even by persons who believe themselves to be so constituted that they are immune."

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Scotland Yard Men BEGIN CRUSADE ON ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE.

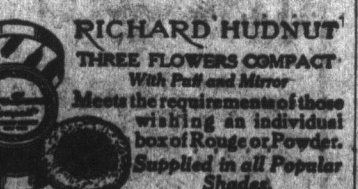
LONDON (A.P.)—The illegal drug traffic in England has grown to such an extent since the war that it has crept out of its dusky Limehouse haunts to pervade the dance halls and restaurants of the West End. The war is held responsible for the abnormal conditions. During the stress of the times the vigilance of the police was otherwise employed, and traffickers obtained a foothold in the slum districts of London. After the war, because of the loss in exchange in other countries, most of the drugs were shipped to England. Probably the war also can be blamed for the great increase in the market for the drugs, anyway, there is said to be several times as much sold here now as in pre-war times.

Following the death of several dancers due to the use of drugs, and the exposure of several clever distribution schemes in the London police courts, Scotland Yard men have opened up on the traffickers. They increased the narcotic squad and began a round-up of criminals which has already resulted in the imprisonment of some of the leaders and has broken up the regular source of supplies which extended into the West End.

The headquarters of the traffic were easily traced to Limehouse, the ancient and natural haunt of all foreign vices. Long investigation and watching resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of a clever young Chinaman who had been under observation for many months by the police. As is usually the case, the man operated a small restaurant in the square of the Limehouse docks. Above the dirty eating room were luxuriously furnished apartments from which he carried on the traffic. He is said to have been the leader of the gangs peddling the drugs throughout London. Several other Orientals have been arrested during the last few weeks. They have been sentenced to a year or more in prison and will then be deported.

Cleaning up the wholesale traffic and the clearing houses which exist along the water front of most of the English ports, however, is a much bigger job. Hundreds of ships enter England every week from Oriental ports, and although they are searched upon entrance and a close watch kept on the crews, the police say traffickers are able to bring in huge supplies.

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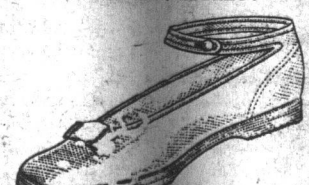
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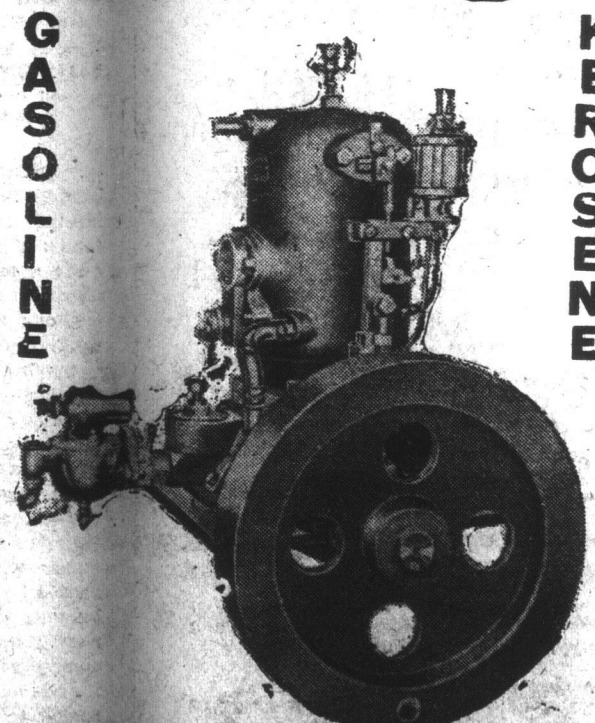
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