

South African Red Cross Society.



SCABIES OR "THE ITCH"

This skin disease is caused by a small insect which is known as a mite and which resembles a tiny tick. It is just visible to the naked eye.

HOW THE DISEASE IS CAUGHT

The female mite is the carrier and must be conveyed from an infected person to another. This can happen in several ways—sleeping in the same bed for instance, or drying with the same towel. The disease is usually spread by intimate contact with an infected person—small children are often the first members of a family to be infected.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MITE IS CONVEYED TO ANOTHER PERSON

As soon as the mite finds herself on the skin she burrows into it and makes a tunnel for herself. In this tunnel eggs are laid which hatch out into young ones in three to five days. These larvae develop and are ready to lay eggs in a week's time.

When the insect has burrowed into the skin the point of entrance seals up and a small water blister forms. During the day the mites do not move about much and cause little irritation. But, it is at bedtime that they become active and it is then that the irritation and itching start. There is a great deal of scratching whereby the little water

blisters are broken and the young mites are distributed on the surrounding skin, and are also carried to other parts of the body by the infected clothes and nails. Wherever they are deposited new burrows are made and the infection is ultimately spread over the whole body. The most commonly attacked parts are in between the webs of the fingers, the front of the wrists, the inner sides and back of the elbows, the front of the armpits, the buttocks and the genital organs.

If one member of a family contracts the disease and remains untreated, every member of that family, irrespective of age, is liable to become infected. The itching is intense and scratching becomes very violent especially at night just before going to bed. If you or any member of your family itch in any of the places mentioned above you may be suffering from the disease and should consult your doctor at once for investigation and treatment.

IMPETIGO

Impetigo is an infectious disease of the skin which forms moist yellowish crusts. It is caused by small microbes which cannot be seen by the naked eye. When they settle on the skin they get down into it and multiply many thousands of times and cause an irritation which results in a little water blister. This soon becomes pus, breaks down and distributes the organisms to other parts of the skin. The open sores dry up and form yellow crusts. The disease can spread quickly from child to child and may become epidemic in schools.

It is wise not to wash in the same basins with people who suffer from open sores or dry yourself with the same towel. If a child has sores and crusts on the face, hands or legs, it should at once be taken to the doctor for treatment and excluded from school until all the sores have healed.

Obtainable from the Society at:

Box 3197, Capetown; Box 1680, Durban; Box 154, Bloemfontein; Box 3266, Johannesburg; Box 346, Windhoek, S.W.A.; Box 492, Port Elizabeth.

Published by the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH EDUCATION of the SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, and approved by the UNION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

PS
Answer

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.
NON-EUROPEAN SUB-COMMITTEE

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October, 1945, to be confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

- (a) Leprosy The film and article on Leprosy have not yet come to hand.
- (b) Scabies and Impetigo A copy of this leaflet is attached and the question of translation is to be discussed. A letter dated 9th November has been received from the Natal Branch asking for a Zulu translation of the pamphlet.
- (c) Communal Feeding Filmlet It has been found impossible to obtain the necessary vegetable market shots of this film. The producers of the film are anxious for some decision in the matter.
- (d) Poster on Venereal Disease Letters have been addressed to Mr. Pamba and Dr. Ferguson of Port Elizabeth on this subject.
- (e) Mothercraft Poster The Round the Clock Feeding Baby for Natives has been rejected by the Chairman of the Committee, as also the Poster on Bowel Diseases. Confirmation is sought from the Committee.

4. POSTERS IN ZULU

A letter has been received from the Natal Branch asking for Zulu translations of several posters.

5. GENERAL

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Received	19 NOV 1945
For Attention
Recorded
Acknowledged
Answered

SCABIES OR THE ITCH.

This skin disease is caused by a small insect which is known as a mite and which resembles a tiny tick. It is just visible to the naked eye.

HOW IS THE DISEASE CAUGHT. The female mite is the carrier and must be conveyed from an infected person to another. This can happen in several ways - sleeping in the same bed for instance, or drying with the same towel. The disease is usually spread by intimate contact with an infected person - small children are often first members of a family to be infected.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MITE IS CONVEYED TO ANOTHER PERSON? As soon as the mite finds herself on the skin she burrows into it and makes a tunnel for herself. In this tunnel eggs are laid which hatch out into young ones in three to five days. These larvae grow up and are ready to lay eggs again in a week's time.

When the insect has burrowed into the skin the point of entrance seals up and a small water blister forms. During the day the mites do not move about much and cause very little irritation. But, it is at bedtime that they become active and it is then that the irritation and itching start. There is a great deal of scratching whereby the little water blisters are broken and the young mites are distributed on the surrounding skin, and are also carried to other parts of the body by the infected clothes and nails. Wherever they are deposited new burrows are made and the infection is ultimately spread over the whole body. The most commonly attacked parts are in between the webs of the fingers, the front of the wrists, the inner sides and back of the elbows, the front of the armpits, buttocks and the genital organs.

If one member of a family contracts the disease and remains untreated, every member of the family, irrespective of age, is liable to become infected. The itching is intense and scratching becomes very violent especially at night just before going to bed. If you or any member of your family itch in any of the places mentioned above, you may be suffering from the disease and should consult your doctor at once for investigation and treatment.

Red X Healed the

IMPETIGO OR VELD SORES.

Impetigo is an infectious disease of the skin which forms moist yellowish crusts. It is caused by small microbes which cannot be seen by the naked eye. When they settle on the skin they burrow down and multiply many thousands of times and cause an irritation which results in a little water blister. This soon becomes pus, breaks down and distributes the organisms to other parts of the skin. The open sores dry up and form yellow crusts. The disease can spread quickly from child to child and may become epidemic in schools.

It is wise not to wash in the same basins with people who suffer from open sores, or dry yourself with the same towel. If a child has sores and crusts on the face, hands or legs, it should at once be taken to the doctor for treatment and excluded from school until all the sores have healed.

SCABIES OR THE ITCH.

This skin disease is caused by a small insect which is known as a mite and which resembles a tiny tick. It is just visible to the naked eye.

HOW IS THE DISEASE CAUGHT. The female mite is the carrier and must be conveyed from an infected person to another. This can happen in several ways - sleeping in the same bed for instance, or drying with the same towel. The disease is usually spread by intimate contact with an infected person - small children are often first members of a family to be infected.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MITE IS CONVEYED TO ANOTHER PERSON? As soon as the mite finds herself on the skin she burrows into it and makes a tunnel for herself. In this tunnel eggs are laid which hatch out into young ones in three to five days. These larvae grow up and are ready to lay eggs again in a week's time.

When the insect has burrowed into the skin the point of entrance seals up and a small water blister forms. During the day the mites do not move about much and cause very little irritation. But, it is at bedtime that they become active and it is then that the irritation and itching start. There is a great deal of scratching whereby the little water blisters are broken and the young mites are distributed on the surrounding skin, and are also carried to other parts of the body by the infected clothes and nails. Wherever they are deposited new burrows are made and the infection is ultimately spread over the whole body. The most commonly attacked parts are in between the webs of the fingers, the front of the wrists, the inner sides and back of the elbows, the front of the armpits, buttocks and the genital organs.

If one member of a family contracts the disease and remains untreated, every member of the family, irrespective of age, is liable to become infected. The itching is intense and scratching becomes very violent especially at night just before going to bed. If you or any member of your family itch in any of the places mentioned above, you may be suffering from the disease and should consult your doctor at once for investigation and treatment.

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.