

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

SNOW-WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS, by Wanda Gag, 4/4 posted. This is not a vulgarised version of the Grimm's story, but a free translation from the original. The print is admirable for small children, and the illustrations attractive.

SONGS OF CHILDHOOD, by Walter de la Mare, 10/5 posted. Some of the author's best verse for children, including such well-known poems as "Tortary" and "The Miller and his Son."

WE COULDN'T LEAVE DINAH, by Mary Treadgold, illustrated by Stewart Treilian, 12/9 posted. This book was awarded the Carnegie Medal for children's literature. It is the story of a family's adventures during the Nazi invasion of one of the Channel islands, rounded off with a satisfyingly happy ending.

THE TEACHER'S OMNIBUS OF STORIES TO TELL, 8/10 posted. An invaluable collection for the teacher or the parent of well-known and not so well-known stories.

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MODERN BOOKS

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Advice on Health (No. 230)

PEDICULOSIS

(Written for "The Listener" by Dr. H. B. Turbott, Director of the Division of School Hygiene, Health Department)

PEDICULOSIS is one of those long medical words that sound highly impressive, but all it means is a condition of lice on the body or in the hair. The body louse never stays around unless there is uncleanness and crowding. In wartime, troops get infestations from herding together in unavoidable bad conditions. In this war

good control has been achieved by using D.D.T. powder, which is not available to civilians yet. The louse itself does not arise from dirt, but lives on human beings only. A dirty individual introduces the pest and it quickly spreads where there is over-crowding and dirty clothes.

It inhabits that side of the underclothing touching the skin. It feeds on the blood while anchored to the underclothing, and lays its eggs in the clothing, especially in the seams. In other countries it may convey typhus fever, and is a definite danger to life, but here, fortunately, it carries no disease. It is merely irritating, it prevents sleep, and is a nuisance.

Control is a matter of regular bathing and clean clothing. Boiling and ironing destroy lice and eggs in underclothes, and ironing and brushing, with particular attention to the seams, kills them in top clothes. The treatment required for the body is a hot bath. Washing and ironing free the bed linen of lice. If you should find body lice in the home, cleanse the infected person and do not forget that everyone in the household must be treated the same way to be sure of immunity.

In the Hair

The head louse frequents the hair of those who neglect their heads, and is occasionally picked up by contact. For example, clean-headed children at school become infected by playing with children with uncared-for heads or by wearing other children's caps in play, or by using strange brushes or combs. The eggs, called "nits," are firmly attached by a cement-like material to the hairs—little glistening things rather like flakes of dandruff. They hatch in a few days. A few stray neglected nits will soon produce a thriving colony of lice, which exist on the blood from the scalp.

When looking for lice and nits the quickest way to find them is to search the hair over the ears and over the nape of the neck. If found, lose no time in getting rid of them. An old remedy and still a good one, is kerosene and olive oil, equal parts. This is rubbed into the hair and scalp, and the head enclosed for an hour or so in a towel wrapped round like a turban. Then follow up with a thorough shampoo with soap and water. Repeat the treatment in a week's time to destroy any lice that may have survived the first treatment. The cap or hat worn should be treated with dry heat in the oven, or with a hot iron.

There are other things that can be used, such as carbolic acid lotion, or quassia chip lotion, or oil of sassafras—this last being quite a popular though dearer form of treatment. However, you will find the kerosene and olive oil will do the trick—but please remember to keep away from all fire or flame. Another old and laborious way to get rid of lice and nits was to comb them out with a fine-tooth comb. After the war D.D.T. powder will soon solve any lice problem among civilians. In the meantime care should be taken to see that children use their own brushes and combs and do not wear caps and hats belonging to others.



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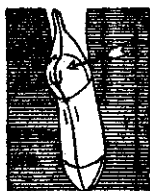
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