

pediculosis or phthiriasis. As applied to his conduct or performance and as used in a strip 150 miles wide extending about from Kansas City to Denver, the word is pediculous, used as an adjective, i.e. he is pediculous. Everywhere else he is described as lousy.

The *Pediculus copitis* or head louse is more numerous here now than they (or it) has been for many years. Few, if any schools in the county are free of head lice.

An old time classification of insects was made by considering their wings, thus: ortho-, neuro-, lepto-, coleo-, followed by ptera described grasshoppers, beetles or what have you, In this scheme lice and bed bugs would be described as hemiptera i.e. having half wings or none at all.

Mr. Head Louse is not so large as Mrs. Head Louse--he being about one and a half millimeters long and she about two,--say $3/50$ and $4/50$ inches respectively. Since the actual size will be proportional to the cube of a dimension, his size will be to her size as 27 is to 64. So far as I know, they have no established plan for getting rid of unneeded males as the bees do. The female lays about 5 dozen eggs which stick to the hairs and are called nits. They hatch in about a week--maybe a little less. If numerous and neglected, they may cause an eczematous or pustular inflammation of the skin, especially about the border of the hair at the back of the neck. If neglected long enough the hairs may become stuck and entangled in the exudate thus forming a smelly mass of scabs with reenforcing hairs called plica polonica because it was common among the Jews in Poland.

We are not now seeing enough body lice or pubic lice to warrant any discussion of them.

How do you manage head lice infestations? There are many satisfactory ways, but they all require some interest, time, and attention. Cutting away most or all the hair is a great help. Rubbing the scalp with kerosene or turpentine daily or every other day for a week or so will finish the clean up. Burn or otherwise sterilize the combs, brushes, and clothing that have been in contact. Some people are sensitive to these oils and would blister. If the treatment causes seriously unpleasant stinging, neutralize the oil with some bland grease like lard or cooking oil and clean it all out with soap and hot water.

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Several people have asked for a custom built article on colds. It is the intention to have such a discussion in the March number of KNOW.

For a long time, we have been beyond believing that mere cold causes a cold. It is interesting to know that colds are extremely rare in the cold regions of the north. However, there is probably some sort of more or less constant and causative relation between cold and colds.

Folk lore medicines says "Feed a cold". Think about this and review your observations and experiences with colds. This will make you a more intelligent reader for the March KNOW.

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