

March 13, 1946

L. B. Mellott, M. D.,
1524 Professional Building,
Kansas City 6, Missouri.

Dear Dr. Mellott:

I think it is very nice of you to drop me a line.
I have been thinking of writing you.

Today I will take my third shot of Thiamine, but after giving a lot of thought to the situation, I find it difficult to accept the diagnosis of "Contact Dermatitis." Going back through my life, the Eczema for a time as a baby, and with my susceptibility to irritation, I am convinced that we see our symptoms, rather than the cause, and that we shall never eradicate this trouble until we go after it with internal medicine. I don't know just what effect the Thiamine is presumed to have.

My condition has forced me to seek local aid, and I have called upon Dr. Monti Belot, who found high blood pressure, and, it is my opinion that at least a part of this excessive blood pressure is due to the trouble which externally, is termed "Dermatitis." He gave me a shot of penicillin Monday, and I would have seen him again yesterday, but it happened to be his day at the clinic, so I had to postpone it until today, at which time another shot of Thiamine is due. It may be that the second part of your prescription is the more important, but I simply mention the name that comes to my mind.

I am reminded of the statement of the famous Doctor Hunter of London many years ago, who said that Eczema was of three types - one that could be cured by sulphur, another by some other ingredient, which he named, and the third, which the devil couldn't cure. So I think through the ages it has been difficult for doctors to determine the cause and the necessary treatment of skin trouble. I have a lot of confidence in Dr. Dennie, but I certainly have had a heck of a time in the last two weeks since I saw you.