

It is rather interesting to me and may give a clue to you to know that in the early days of my trouble, I had Mrs. Simons bathe my back with alcohol, and I would indicate certain spots that itched, and she would tell me that the skin was just as smooth as a child's, and that there was no visible irritation whatever, and so the matter has progressed. I wish you would give it serious consideration from the standpoint of there being an internal disturbance of some kind which has caused the outer manifestation.

I had been troubled for a month or more with this irritation before it went wild on January 31, when I was with my wife in a room in which an inhalator was giving out fumes of Benzoin. At that time I was wearing stockings with ordinary elastic garters, and, although that was very nearly seven weeks ago, that irritation is still manifest on both of my legs, although it is undoubtedly much better than when you saw it two weeks ago.

I have tried to give you a better picture of the situation, but may have succeeded none too well in doing so. Meanwhile, my general health has been seriously impaired, which is indicated by a general weakness. I have either got to whip this case, or it will whip me.

I don't believe there would be much advantage in making another trip to your office until Dr. Dennie's return. I don't blame Dr. Newsome, or whatever his name is, for his snap judgment in designating my trouble as "Contact Dermatitis". That is probably what it looked like to him.

If you think best, I shall be glad to have you show my letter to your associate, as I certainly need the benefit of good advice. I have been unable to sleep without taking aspirin and amytal upon retiring, and then getting up in the middle of the night for more of the same. Another feature which may have some bearing on the case to you is that this internal heat, although, it may not show in a thermometer, has caused me for the past two months, to sleep with practically no cover other than a sheet. That, in itself, seems to me to be abnormal.

One more thing which is a source of worry is that within the last week or ten days, there has been a swelling in my ankles. I have continued to take the starch baths each morning, which have started me out more comfortably for the day. An odd thing about my condition is that my face and hands, which are exposed to the weather, have not suffered in the least, and that I am more comfortable in my garments for the day than I am when I disrobe at night. That may have significance to you.

Yours very truly,