

June 22, 1931

*Sent a wire this a.m.
6/23 - Expected this to go last night*

Dear Grace:

I am very sorry that you are having so great annoyance with some form of skin trouble.

Before writing you, I wanted to check up on a thing or two and called Dr. Jones, who I find had just left for Rochester, Minnesota, for special work with the Mayos. However, I talked with Miss Gieseman, who has been superintendent of his hospital, to check up on what I thought you might have and its treatment.

Of course I don't know anything about medicine and couldn't diagnose a case if I saw it but I should not be surprised from the stubborn way in which your case is acting, if it were a scattered infection of what is commonly known now as athletes foot. This is an extremely stubborn infection to handle as it seems to be fairly deep seated. I do not believe that the iodine treatment will be effective, but I do believe that your trouble might respond to a bichloride of mercury wash. Ask your doctor or druggist to prepare such a solution for you, using 10 parts of bichloride to 1000 of water. Probably the best way to apply this would be to make a swab of absorbent cotton. You want to remember that this is a deadly poison if taken internally. It might be wise in trying this to use it at first upon the hand and knee or other scattering spots. You should secure an allaying of the itching within twenty-four hours as the infection is quickly killed. *by bichloride x*

There is a powder that is mighty good to shake in your stockings to keep your feet from itching or perspiring. It is Kora Konia and is a Mennen product. Pat says he thinks it probably has a zinc stearate base. This would not in itself be curative but it probably would help allay the itching and would keep your garments from rubbing the infected spots.

I have used the bichloride of mercury, 10 parts to 1000, successfully in ~~curing~~ allaying an itching of the face which in times past has indicated an infection. I have cured such spots with a single application. With what may have been athletes foot, I have had it respond satisfactorily from a comparatively small number of applications.