“Athlete's Foot” Is Serious Locker-Room Problem

ATHLETE'S foot is a popular name for ringworm of the foot, from which more than ten million persons in the United States are now suffering, according to an estimate made by Dr. Charles F. Pabst, chief dermatologist of the Greenpoint Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y. Three-quarters of these sufferers, Dr. Pabst thinks, do not know what ails them, for the great prevalence of the malady is very recent. “It begins, as a rule, between the toes, where it is often overlooked, and spreads gradually along the sole and sides of the foot. The skin becomes pink or red in color and the affected part is frequently covered with a white scale or crust. The scales may be dry or moist, and when peeled off, leave an inflamed area.

“This condition extends very slowly, accompanied with slight itching, and for this reason it may exist for weeks or months without attracting the attention of the victim. Sometimes the nails are affected, and they become brittle and yellow. In advanced stages, I have seen the nails greatly thickened and almost black.

“This ailment is caused by a parasite which is a vegetable fungus called Tinea trichophyton. This fungus is very common and is found on the floors of gymnasiums, swimming pools, and bathing establishments. When the feet are warm and moist the fungus takes easy hold and grows rapidly. I believe many cases are contracted by walking barefoot on the floor in public places. One patient can easily transmit it to other members of his family, and to the members of his golf club or gymnasium. The well-to-do are affected in larger numbers than the poorer classes, and the disease is very prevalent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande.

“I have seen far advanced cases in the West Indies and South America, and the malady is said to have originated in India. It undoubtedly gained a hold there because of the custom of going barefoot and the unhygienic conditions among the congested masses. The great prevalence of this condition in America, and the rapid increase in recent years, are warnings that should be heeded if we wish to stamp out this malady. All those who have ringworm of the feet or nails should receive appropriate treatment, and should keep
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away from golf clubs, gymnasiums, and swimming pools unless they keep their feet covered and take care not to transmit the disease by way of towels or other articles. Dogs and cats often carry this parasite on their feet and body, and should not be allowed in bathing establishments or other places where there is a possibility of conveying the fungus to man.

"The disease can be cured by the application of a mild anti-parasitic ointment, although some cases require long treatment, and the malady must be completely eradicated or else the condition starts anew from any uncured part. A careful inspection will reveal this ailment to thousands who are unaware of its presence, and proper treatment now will prevent its transmission to thousands of others during the summer bathing and golfing season."

Dr. C. C. Pierce, acting Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, who recently discussed this matter with Dr. Pabst, agrees that at least one-half of the adult population suffer from this malady at some time. Almost every one who uses a swimming pool, golf club, athletic club, or any place where there is a common dressing room, has the infection...
Upon his feet. The disease is caused by a vegetable parasite which flourishes on the floors of public places, and on bath mats and other such articles. A health news article by the U. S. Public Health Service has been issued on "Ringworm of the Hands and Feet."

Earl Lee Heads Chicago Club Managers

A NNUAL election of officers of the Chicago District Club Managers' association named E. G. Lee of Lake Shore C. C., president; B. E. O'Grady of the Hamilton club, vice president; Frank H. Murray of Ravisloe C. C., sec.-treas., and as new directors, C. G. Holden of Olympia Fields and T. M. Esser of Casino club.

SPRING is the time to remove stones from the fairway before the grass starts to grow. No matter how free of stones the fairways were in the fall, you can always find more in the spring. This is caused by the frost raising them up to the surface. One of the first things to do on a golf course in the spring is to clean up all the stones, sticks, and other refuse.

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