



Ivy Poisoning

THE BEST means for preventing ivy poisoning is to stay away from the accursed weed altogether. But in many parts of the country that would mean staying away from all picnics and woodland outings; for the woods are literally full of poison ivy.

Among the best chemical preventives are the salts of iron. These are scientifically sound; they convert the poison of the weed into an insoluble substance that can do your skin no harm. And they have been thoroughly tested by thousands of people—they work for almost everybody.

Get an ounce of ferrous sulphate. Dissolve it in half a pint of water. Add half a pint (or a little more) of alcohol. Wash this mixture freely over face, hands, arms—ankles and legs, too, if you are going barelegged. Let it dry on the skin. (Many persons like to mix a little glycerin into the solution, to keep the skin moist).

When the water and alcohol have evaporated away, go confidently into the woods, never fearing the venomous trifoliate dragons therein. You are clad in armor of invisible iron, and poison ivy cannot harm you.

But if you have already suffered from

its malign touch, and are wretched with blisters and itching, there is a different remedy. The thing you need to do now is oxidize the poison—burn away the curse with a cool flame.

Recommended for this use by Dr. James F. Couch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is a five per cent. solution of potassium permanganate in water, or in water-and-alcohol, as with the iron mixture. You can get your druggist to put it up for you, or you can mix your

own—an ounce of the permanganate to a pint of solution is close enough.

Puncture the blisters with a flame-sterilized needle, and swab up their watery contents with absorbent cotton or sterile gauze. Then swab on the permanganate solution. It will sting a bit, but you'd rather stand that than the intolerable itching. It will leave a brown stain, but you can take that off with lemon juice after a couple of hours.

Science News Letter, June 26, 1937

VOLCANOLOGY

Levees Against Lava Proposed For Hawaii

LEVEES protect mainland American cities against floods of water. But a proposed system of embankments for the city of Hilo, on the island of Hawaii, will be designed to give protection against actual floods of liquid fire.

Hilo lies at the lower end of a long valley, which continues on under the sea to form the city's excellent harbor. That valley, which brings wealth to Hilo, also offers the constant menace of fiery doom. For inland looms the vast bulk of Mauna Loa, which at intervals of about fifty months pours lava flows from vents in its sides.

A couple of years ago Hilo was saved from a dragon-flow of viscous "pahoe-hoe" lava by a few judiciously planted bombs from Army planes under the directing generalship of Dr. T. A. Jaggar, noted American volcanologist, who has spent a lifetime with the volcanoes of Hawaii and knows them better than most men know their own children.

But, says Dr. Jaggar, it is an ill and risky thing to depend only on Army

bombers to stop a lava flow. For one thing, the earlier-flowing, more abundant, highly liquid type of lava called "aa" is far more dangerous and can not be checked by bombing.

So he proposes three deflecting embankments of heavy lava blocks well up the slopes, to deflect the rivers of fire into courses that will take them away from Hilo. A final line of defense would be right at the edge of the city and harbor—a causeway-wall like the wall of a medieval castle, with sliding steel traffic doors that could be shut against the oncoming enemy.

The danger to be averted is not only the possible burning of homes and warehouses. A major flow might fill the harbor with a solid mass of rock, and ruin the city effectually even if it did not start a single fire.

Possible labor is already mobilized in the CCC camps, Dr. Jaggar points out. The public has for several years been in the mood for megalithic works.

Science News Letter, June 26, 1937

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July 6, 4:15 p.m., E.S.T.

BABYLONIANS: FATHERS OF SCIENCE—Dr. Waldo H. Dubberstein, Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions over the Columbia Broadcasting System.