

NEWS & VIEWS

A TRIED, TESTED AND SUCCESSFUL REMEDY FOR PRICKLY HEAT —Scientific approach by a Non-Medical Scientist

Fastness to perspiration of dyed textiles is a very common worry of the textile chemist. I had read that some persons' perspiration tends to be more acidic than that of others. Therefore, I thought that perhaps Prickly-heat was an irritation of the skin due to acidity of perspiration. This is the basis of my formulation.

Prickly-heat powder is made by mixing as follows: (a) *For Adults*: 88 parts by weight of talcum powder & 12 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate. (b) *For Children*: 94 parts by weight of talcum powder & 6 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate. (c) *For Infants*: 97 parts by weight of talcum powder & 3 parts by weight of sodium bicarbonate.

There are no other ingredients at all.

MANNER OF USE OF THE PRICKLY-HEAT POWDER

(a) Where there is already an attack of prickly-heat, then wet the affected part with water, sprinkle a little powder on it and with gentle pressure of the palm or finger tips, make a paste of the powder in situ. The powder must be sprinkled liberally and if the dampness is not enough to make a proper paste, then, a little more water should be sprinkled. Allow the paste to dry before putting on garments. This should be done at least twice a day, once in the morning after bath and the second time again in the evening, preferably after a bath or at least after sponging the affected parts with clean cold water. Making the paste is the important step and procedure.

With this method of application, it has been found that prickly-heat completely disappears within 48 to 72 hours.

(b) As a preventive for people who are very susceptible to the attack of prickly-heat but whose skin at the moment is not affected with it, damp the skin slightly and sprinkle the prickly-heat powder on the prickly-heat-prone parts.

(c) As a preventive, in case of people who are slightly susceptible to the attack of prickly-heat, dust the powder once or twice in a day on the Prickly-heat-prone parts.

I have been testing prickly-heat powders which have been on the market from time to time. None of these is anywhere as effective as my powder. My formula is ridiculously simple. None of the commercially marketed powders have had an alkaline composition. On the contrary, most of them had boric acid and other acidic chemicals, which would aggravate rather than reduce the trouble. (Readers are invited to offer their Comments.—Editor.)