

deal of annoyance to the patients. Prophylaxis is especially important. Dr. Jackson, in his "Manual of Skin Diseases," insists on two things: the influence of heredity in these cases, and the etiological importance of dandruff. Fathers and sons for generations may grow bald early, or the inherited peculiarity may have to be traced to the grandparents or some collateral line. Not all the children in one family in which baldness is hereditary are bald, but it will manifest itself in two or three of the children. The necessity for prophylaxis in these cases is evident. *Hygiene of the scalp* must begin at the very beginning of life and be continued persistently. Its details, as given by Dr. Jackson, are irksome, but most mothers whose sons are threatened with their father's early baldness will be perfectly willing to take the additional trouble; and as for the sons themselves, as soon as they come to the years of indiscretion (or vanity), which is generally considered to be about the age of fifteen, they can usually be depended on to take for themselves all necessary precautions to stave off the unwelcome parental inheritance. As to dandruff, it constitutes, according to Dr. Jackson, the cause of 70 per cent. of the premature baldness that occurs. Not that everyone that has dandruff will become bald—experience is against that; but it is very often true that an error in the nutrition of the sebaceous glands causes sympathetic trophic disturbances in the hair follicles, and hair production ceases. In this class of cases early treatment is of the utmost importance. Lassar's method requires the taking of a good deal of trouble on the part of the patient, but it is deservedly popular because of its frequent success. In general, however, the cure of the condition causing the dandruff, which is now considered to be, in all cases, a form of eczema seborrhoicum, will stop the loss of hair. Persistence of treatment for months is necessary, but will nearly always be crowned with success if the condition was not too far advanced when treatment was begun. When there is absolute baldness, it is extremely doubtful if anything can make the hair grow.

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