

incident in trying a new method of treatment. At the house of a literary friend, I met an Italian lady, whose high attainments and publications are well known in literary circles. After discussing various topics, in conversation, we entered upon the very remarkable one of "filbert nails," which she told us were cultivated by the ladies of her native town to such a degree that they ignored the wearing of gloves, in order to exhibit the neatness and symetry of the finger nails. She told me, in order that they may be properly grown, chiropodists, practising the art of nail cultivation, were in the habit of putting their consultees under the following plan of treatment. Out of the centre of the nail they cut a triangular portion—the base at the free extremity of the nail, and the apex at the matrix—so as to encourage the nail to contract from the edges towards the centre, or, in other words, to make the central part of nail grow with greatest prominence. Having three chronic cases of in-growing toe-nails in the district, I bothought me to try the plan of cutting out a triangular central portion, with a very wide base, shaving the edges of the in-growth as thin as expedient with a piece of glass, and tying the separated nail together loosely with a piece of dentist's silk from beneath, and placing between the nail and contiguous soft parts, into which the nail intruded, a piece of thick worsted, coated with mercurial ointment. Where those exquisitely-sensitive granulations existed, I applied some extract of belladonna and resin ointment rubbed together, and adopted the same method in remedying the shape and growth of the nail.

In the course of time the affected nail assumed a better shape, grew out more prominently, and away from the sides, whilst the pain and irritation was overcome by the belladonna application, and eventually cured by the mercurial ointment, and pressure taken off by the better shape assumed by the nail.

As against every method of treatment, which has for its object the cure of in-growing toe-nail without evulsion, it may be said, my plan needs much patience, and requires time and perseverance. The patients were only too glad to have something to do, and to practice it, for there is a great antipathy among them to tearing out the nail by the forceps even under chloroform. I ignore the other spray, for I have used it in removing a toe-nail, and should be sorry to depend on its pain-destroying virtues in future.