Wearing the Beard.

Hair is nature's protector against cold. Our beneficent Creator does nothing in vain. Rowland says on this subject: "It may be safely argued as a general physiological principle that whatever evinces a free and natural development of any part of the body, is, by necessity, beautiful. Deprive the lion of his mane, the cock of its comb, the peacock of the emerald plumage of its tail, the ram and deer of their horns, and they not only become displeasing to the eye, but lose much of their power and vigor. And it is easy to apply this reasoning to the hairy ornaments of a man's face. The caprice of fashion alone forces the Englishman to shave off those appendages which give to the male countenance that true masculine character, indicative of energy, bold daring and decision. The presence or absence of the beard, as an addition to the face, is the most marked and distinctive peculiarity between the countenances of the two sexes. Who can hesitate to admire the noble countenance of the Osmanli Turk of Constantinople, with his un-Mongolian length of beard? Ask any of the fair sex whether they will not approve and admire the noble countenance of Mehemet Ali, Major Herbert Edwards, the hero of the Punjaub, Sir Charles Napier, and others, as set off by their beard? We may ask with 'Beatrice,' 'What manner of man is he? Is his head worth a hat, or his chin worth a beard?' I have noticed the whiskers and beards of many of our most prominent physicians and merchants encroaching upon their former narrow boundaries, while it is well known that not a few of our divines have been long convinced of the folly of disobeying one of nature's fixed laws; but hitherto their unwillingness to shock the prejudice of their congregations, has prevented them from giving effect to their convictions. The beard is not merely for ornament, it is for use. Nature never does anything in vain; she is economical, and wastes nothing. She would never erect a bulwark were her domain unworthy of protection, or were there no enemy to invade it."

The History of Diphtheria.

We recently quoted some pertinent suggestions concerning this disease from an address delivered by Dr. Maxon, of Syracuse, New York, and published in the *Journal of Chemistry*. There are also matters connected with the history of the disease which teach lessons. The annual flooding of the Nile in Egypt, affording, with the moisture thus produced, a generation and mingling of marsh and animal miasms, with the various imprudences of the Egyptian people, may readily have originated this disease. Asia Minor, probably the next most prediposed country and people, was next invaded, as might have been expected. Then, in its turn, the south of Europe, burdened with the imprudences of the third and fourth centuries, with its influx of the northern hordes upon the Roman empire. Later still, central and northern Europe, distracted with the turmoils and degraded by the poliutions of the dark ages, became ripe for it. Finally, other parts of the world, including America, had become sufficiently predisposed; and the United States, having either produced it or received it from the Old World, has hence suffered a due share of its ravages down to the present time.

Every step of the progress of this disease has thus been invited, and every epidemic or endemic has had its cause; no case ever having occurred anywhere, unless contracted by the contagion from another patient, without some general or local cause—usually *local* and discoverable—from which may have emanated animal as well as marsh miasms or poisons. The fact of its increased prevalence in our own country may very likely be due, in part at least, to the more artificial mode of treating children, its more common victims. For it is a shameful fact that, as a result of modern fashion, few children now, among all classes, have proper clothing or covering for their limbs; and a still smaller number take their food with strict regularity, abstaining from it between meals, as well as from candies and other injurious and indigestible trash, as they should. A radical reform in these respects, together with cleanliness and an avoidance of the pollutions in and about dwellings, barns and out-houses, with proper sewerage, would greatly diminish the number of cases as well as the malignancy of this and all other putrid diseases. Such a rational and proper course, persevered in for a reasonable time, would doubtless render them extinct, or some of them at least.

If all interested in this matter would, instead of regarding it as a visitation of God, set about inquiring into and removing the causes, very much might and would thus be speedily done to eradicate this disease. For, though God has established laws that control results, He has not directed nor ordained that nuisances and pollutions should be left where they will tend to produce disease.

TREATMENT FOR CORNS.—The *Druggists' Advertiser* handles this painful subject as follows: Keep the feet clean by frequent ablutions with warm water, and wear easy, soft boots or shoes. Without the latter precaution, corns will generally return, even after they appear to have been perfectly removed. After soaking the feet in warm water for a few minutes, pare the corns as close as possible with a sharp knife, taking care not to make them bleed. Place upon the part affected a small, circular piece of leather or buckskin, spread with some emollient plaster and having a hole in the center corresponding to the size of the corns. They may now be touched with nitric acid by means of a small glass rod or wood tooth-pick, due care being taken not to allow the liquid to come in contact with the neighboring parts. Repeat this process daily, until the offender be sufficiently softened to admit of removal.

SCARLET FEVER BY MAIL.—A medical correspondent of the London *Telegraph*, a few weeks ago, gave the following account of such a case: "A lady residing in the country wrote to inform a friend in this neighborhood (East Sheen) that she was occupied in nursing her daughter suffering from scarlatina. The friend, after reading and burning the letter, gave the envelope in which it was contained to one of her children to play with. Ten days later I was requested to see the same child, when the diffused red rash over the skin, elevated temperature, and ulcerated tonsils clearly pointed to the nature of the malady with which I was called upon to deal. From inquiries that I have since made, I am satisfied that unless the disease originated *de novo* it could be traced to no other source of infection than the unfortunate envelope previously mentioned. Preventive medicine is always better than curative. I would therefore suggest that all communications not absolutely necessary written from an infected house be interdicted, and then when received, both letters and envelopes be immediately consigned to the nearest fire."

Drain and Ventilate.

We refer to these subjects very often in this column, and fitly, because they are the corner stones in the preservation of health. The *Polytechnic Review* thus presents the subject: Wherever the soil water, impurified by contact with unclean organic matters, sinks into the earth, it leaves behind it a moist and unwholesome residuum, and the warmer the air, the water and the soil, the more energetic are its unwholesome influences. Whether the infectious matters are transferred from the soil into the well waters, or whether they enter the air directly with their gaseous products of decomposition or by evaporation, are merely incidental accidents which do not at all affect the result, since, in every case, it is those who dwell upon or near such unwholesome soils who are the greatest sufferers. If the air of our dwelling houses is not frequently renewed by ventilation, or if water charged with organic impurities is permitted to saturate the soil about them, or if decomposing organic matter (or what is the same thing, filth) is stored up in the neighborhood, or so disposed of that it is permitted to impregnate and saturate the soil about and beneath the house, or if the channels by which these offensive matters are removed from the house, as in the sewerage systems of cities and towns, are not properly constructed or guarded, the air that enters a dwelling thus environed, will be charged with disease-breeding emanations arising from the soil or from the sewer pipes. The drinking water may become impregnated, and the unwholesome products thus introduced into the bodies of its inhabitants will, beyond all question, exert the most pernicious effects upon health, producing, according to the quantity of exposure and individual peculiarities, consequences more or less fatal.

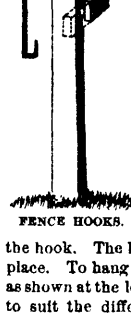
The Oldest Human Relic in the World.

In the Etruscan Vase Room of the British Museum is to be seen the skeleton of one Pharaoh Mykerinus, decently incased in its original burial-clothes, and surrounded by fragments of the coffin, whereon the name of its occupant can be easily read by Egyptologists, affording conclusive evidence that it once contained the mummy of a king who was reigning in Egypt more than a century before the time of Abraham. The proof is thus explained in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, April, 1806: "About two years ago Herr Duemichen, a German explorer of the monuments of Egypt, following up the indications pointed out by M. Mariette, a distinguished archæologist, discovered on the buried walls of the temple of Osiris, Abydos, a large tablet containing the names of the ancient Pharaohs from the time of Mizraim, the grandson of Noah and founder of the Egyptian monarchy, to that of Pharaoh Seti I, the father of the well-known Rameses the Great, including thereby the chronology of nine centuries, viz., from B. C. 2300 to B. C. 1400. This tablet, by far the most important yet discovered, has been compared to the sculptured figures of the kings of England, at the Crystal Palace, from William the Conqueror to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Astronomical evidence, moreover, enables us to determine the time of two important epochs in the history of Egypt, one of which is connected with our present subject. Sir John Herschel has fixed the age of the Great Pyramid of Ghizeh to the middle of the twenty-second century B. C. The tablet of Abydos shows that the Pharaoh whose bones we now possess succeeded the builder of the Great Pyramid with only two intervening kings. We are therefore warranted in assuming that the remains of Pharaoh Mykerinus belong to the age to which we have assigned them."

HARNESS POLISH.—Take of mutton suet, two ounces; beeswax, six ounces; powdered sugar, six ounces; lampblack, one ounce; green or yellow soap, two ounces; and water, one-half pint. Dissolve the soap in the water, add the other solid ingredients, mix well, and add turpentine. Lay on with a sponge, and polish off with a brush.

Aids in Fence Building.

One man, alone, finds it a difficult job to build a board fence, inasmuch as one pair of hands can not readily hold both ends of a twelve-foot board, and nail one end at the same time. By using the hooks shown in the accompanying engraving, this work may be easily done by one person. In the figure is shown a hook and guard for holding the end of the board that comes next to the finished panel. It is so made that, when hung upon the top of the fence post, the board rests upon the hook, and can not slip off. Then the other end of the board is nailed, the middle is nailed, and then the end held upon the hook. The hook is then moved for the next place. To hang the rest of the boards, hooks, such as shown at the left, may be used, of various lengths to suit the different spaces between the boards. The uses of these are too obvious to need description.



FENCE HOOKS.