

occipito-frontalis muscle at its attachment to the external occipital protuberance, and the adjacent parts of the superior curved lines.

The skin of the scalp, therefore, overlying the epicranial aponeurosis, has no underlying muscles to exercise it, and has only to depend upon the action of the occipito-frontalis muscle, to which it is closely adherent, and only moves when that muscle is put into action. And how often that muscle is moved in twenty-four hours I leave any one to conjecture. In no other region of the body is there such an extensive area of skin which does not receive adequate exercise either through underlying or adjacent muscles.

The skin of the area of baldness is abundantly supplied with blood; the scalp is very vascular. There is nothing anatomical or mechanical to interfere with or retard the arterial supply, unless it be the proverbial construction of the hat assumed by the male portion of the population. As far as this acts upon the arterial trunks, it is infinitesimal, but upon the return flow in the lymphatics and veins, the hat has its influence.

The lymphatics and veins drain the area of baldness in five different directions. On either side of the middle line, anteriorly, there is a lymphatic stream down the forehead past the nose and over the face to the submaxillary glands. Latterly these vessels lead to the lymphatic parotid glands; posteriorly, into the post-auricular and sub-occipital glands. The fifth is along the path of the emissary veins, through the parietal foramina when present in the parietal bones, into the superior longitudinal sinus. I have recently taken the trouble to examine a number of parietal bones. In a great many of these the parietal foramen, which when present is generally situated about an inch or so anterior to the posterior superior angle on either side of the sagittal suture, was absent altogether; and it was in the smaller and thinner bones that it was present. It would be, perhaps, an interesting point to know whether this parietal foramen with its emissary vein, were more constant in women than in men, as its presence must add materially to the draining facilities of this region.

Whilst the skin of this area of baldness, and consequently the hair follicles, may have a good nourishing supply directed towards them, the functions of the hair papillæ may be stunted by the slow return flow through the veins and lymphatics. What is there to accelerate that flow? Nothing but the inactivity of the epicranial aponeurosis, and, perhaps to a slight extent, gravity. There is no active muscular exercise in the part whatever, to hurry along the waste products and the deoxygenized blood in the vessels. These structures being superficial, and easily compressible, their compression by the rim of the hat will further retard their