

On Physo-Fungi Generally.

In your last issue you were soliciting information on military law as effecting moustaches. The science of Facial Fungus Excrescences is one to which I have devoted considerable study, so the following notes extracted from my last paper to the Royal Society may possibly relieve your coagulated abysmal ignorance.

Firstly, of our more uncommon forms *FUNGUS BUFFALOCUS AFRICANDUS* is our most beautiful; and the more perfect specimens very rare indeed; the prongs should curve gracefully outwards and slightly upwards till a complete circle is formed, or three circles growing smaller each time; genuine specimens are rare in this country though more common on the continent.

FUNGUS ELANDI is another rather uncommon form, the necessity of frequent attention and the increasing price of cosmetics being deterrent to extensive cultivation; occasionally specimens measuring ten to eleven inches have been known. "Dulcinea" (with whom I always discuss these things) informs me the shoots, cut when fully grown, stewed in hydro-cyanic acid, then treated with bitumen, make excellent hat-pins.

CHARLY CHAPLINI VULGARIS.—This is the commonest known variety, particularly so in the neighbourhood of the Military, due no doubt to the ease of production, three days lack of tonsorial attention producing a good healthy one in adult males, whilst its hardihood and necessity for but scant training greatly enhance its popularity; in the less mature animals it is the only kind they can attempt to grow anyway.

On Tuesdays and Fridays (soup days) the sanitary superiority of this breed is very evident. "Dulcinea" says it is not liked by the fairer sex owing to its prickly nature.

The variety *SHULTZI*, so called after a well-loved cartoon, is really a "sport," being the *CHAPLINI VULGARIS* run to seed, it is of course quite common, and called by the illiterate, "Toothe brush moustache. *FUNGI WILLIAM-ENSIS*—one of the sorrows of the ardent fungalist is the rapid decline of this form since 1914, it was elegantly suited to weak-chinned individuals, imparting quite a fierce expression; though careful training and frequent pruning were imperative or the sharp up-growing ends damaged the eyelashes and caused ophthalmia, or the inability to see straight with the rest of mankind.

Many other sorts occur, that discovered some time ago and named the *CROWN PRINCE* is not a true fungus at all, being more in the nature of a disease, whilst the *TRIPITZI* and *FRANZ JOSEPHUS*, not being found in the British Empire (or if found placed under close arrest) do not concern us. The only known poisonous variety is the *WILLIAM-ENSIS*, but according to the Fungoid Society its world-wide extermination is imminent.

To all those interested in the subject I recommend the following books—"Facial Fungoddities," by Professor Archibald Iswas, B.S., and "The Amateur Moustachite" by H. S. S.

Congratulations and A Warning.

It has come to our ears that a fine piece of work was accomplished by Sergt. Duncan on Saturday last. A patient got into difficulties whilst bathing north of the pier, and was in imminent danger of drowning. Observing this, Sergt. Duncan swam out, and with great difficulty secured his man, then battled his way back to where other bathers were able to secure the pair with ropes and haul them to the beach. We congratulate Sergt. Duncan on his gallant and timely action; and at the same time we would warn patients, especially those not in full possession of their wonted strength and stamina, that the under-current north of the pier at full tide is very strong and by no means to be trifled with.

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