

papillæ of the scalp so much enfeebled that rapid baldness ensues. The papillæ, however, still retain their vitality, and as the system regains its strength they quickly recover their potentiality, and the hair comes again, perhaps thicker than before.

In the same manner certain cutaneous affections may cause the hair to fall by an action on the papillæ which is but temporary; in such cases recovery, perhaps with assistance, perhaps without it, is possible. In the great majority of instances, however, where the head is bald the failure of nutrition of each papilla has come on so gradually, and has continued so long, that the papilla no longer exists; it has passed away by atrophy; its capillaries have become obliterated, and even the follicle itself no longer constitutes a depression in the cutis, and the scalp has the smooth and shining appearance which we so well recognize.

It is easy, therefore, to see that in such a condition as this no renewed growth of the hair is to be expected, for the anatomical structure which caused its development and continued it has ceased to exist, and the countless remedies which are so freely advertised as being able to rejuvenate bald heads are utterly of no avail. They serve only to illustrate the greed and the impudence of the inventors, as well as the credulity of the purchasers. But such is the desire to escape the appearance of "growing old" that no doubt they will hold their ground for all time to come.

But now arises the question, cannot the application of the various agents to the scalp, at the time when the hair is *beginning* to lose its hold, be of service in stimulating the follicles and papillæ into renewed and permanent vigor? To this question it is not possible, on theoretical grounds, to say no, absolutely; but in practical fact that is the only true answer to give in the vast majority of cases. The cause of the falling of the hair has been already stated, and safe reasoning

tells us that our only hope can be in that which can restore the failing vitality, and we well know that we should not expect to secure this on any other part of the skin by filthy oils and washes. Proper cleansing of the scalp is as important as it is of all other parts; nothing else should be applied to it but common sense.

There can be little question that the continued close covering of the head with hats and caps is one very constant cause of baldness. Women, in our own communities, seldom lose their hair, except from sudden causes: and among those nations where the head is habitually left bare or but slightly covered, baldness is practically unknown. At the same time the beard, which is of the same class of hair as that of the scalp, but which is always uncovered, does not fall with age. A reform in our style of head gear is very desirable, but it is not at all likely to be accomplished.

The suggestion was some time ago made in our columns that bald heads might perhaps be covered anew with hair by "skin grafting," *i. e.*, applying bits taken from other scalps and causing them to take root and spread. No doubt such bits might be attached, but the whole matter is merely a wild fancy without practical value. We can make "skin grafts" take hold, but it is only where the skin is destroyed and the surface raw and exposed, commonly rendered so by disease. Assuming that some person (though it is difficult to believe that such a person could be found) would consent to have his scalp peeled away in preparation for the operation, and then assuming that some other person could be found who would consent to appropriate his own scalp to cutting out the proper bits for the work, yet then the very best possible success (even theoretically) must be extremely imperfect. The denuded surface would heal so rapidly between the "grafts" that no extension on their part could take place, and a head with small specks of hair here and there would be the only attainable result. "Crazy patch-work" is fashionable, but perhaps not many would care to wear it in that way.

The result of all seems to be that when baldness has come slowly and naturally, it has come to stay, and our only wisdom is to be content.