

that the choice of hands depends upon the side to which the polypus is attached.

5. In immature deliveries hemorrhage can usually be controlled without the tampon, by compression of the uterus, and, in cases of delay, by the manual extraction of the placenta.

THE TREATMENT OF BALDNESS.

In the *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dr. George H. Rohe writes on this widely interesting subject.

Having been himself a sufferer from seborrhœa and consequent alopecia for six or seven years, the writer has, as may be supposed, tried a great many remedies with a view to its alleviation and cure. Arsenic internally, stimulating washes or oily applications, containing in the one case corrosive sublimate, in the other quinine, or tannin, in still another some of the stimulating oils, were used with no appreciable effect either on the formation of scales or the depilation. Finally, about two years ago, an item went the rounds of the medical journals to the effect that a French physician, whose name has escaped me, had found that the local use of a five per cent. solution of chloral hydrate was a sovereign remedy for the trouble under consideration. Rejoiced that at last I could appropriately shout "Eureka!" I began to use the chloral wash assiduously for about three months, following the directions given as accurately as possible. At the end of the three months the production of scales was more rapid and the fall of hair greater than ever. Disgusted with the failure of all the therapeutic measures which had been so highly lauded, I almost decided to let the affection take its own course, and run the risk of a shiny bald pate at thirty. About that time the second volume of Hebra's classical treatise on diseases of the skin,* came to hand, and one of the first things I read was Kaposi's thorough article on alopecia. Impressed with the reasonableness of the views put forth by Kaposi, I determined to give his plan of treatment a trial, with the result of checking the fall of hair and diminishing the production of scales in a reasonable short space of time. I have since then recommended the plan in a considerable number of instances, and, when it has been faithfully carried out, with uniform success.

The success of the method depends upon the use of an agent which, while mildly stimulant, removes the scales and thoroughly cleanses the scalp. This agent is the German or French soft soap (green soap, *schmierseife*, *savon vert*.) in alcoholic solution. This soap is now imported in large quantities and prescribed daily by the dermatologists of Boston, New York,

Baltimore, Philadelphia and other cities. The soap, containing an excess of alkali, saponifies the fatty matter of the sebaceous secretion, and it is thus easily removed. The alcohol greatly assists this action, and seems also to have an alterative action—if such an indefinite term is excusable—on the glands. The two may be combined as follows:—

R. Saponis viridis (Germ.),
Alcoholis. aa. ʒ ij.

Solve, filtra, et adde ol. lavandulæ gtt. xx-xxx

The oil of lavender is added to cover the disagreeable fishy odor of the soap. The above makes a very handsome orange or wine-colored preparation, with a pleasant odor, to which the most fastidious will hardly object.

This is used as a shampoo every morning or evening, pouring one or two tablespoonfuls on the head. Upon the addition of water, and smart friction with the fingers, a copious lather is soon produced. After keeping up the shampooing process for four or five minutes, all the soap must be washed out of the hair by the free use of warm or cold water, and the hair thoroughly dried by means of gentle friction with a soft towel. The immediate effect experienced is a disagreeable feeling of tension of the scalp, as if it were stretched too tightly over the skull. To obviate this effect, and to keep the scalp from getting too dry, and thus, perhaps, set up a true pityriasis, it is necessary to follow up the shampooing with some fatty application, which may contain some mild stimulant, thus: Castor oil, 1 part, to alcohol 3 or 4 parts, with a little oil of rosemary or cinnamon, or the elegant pomades and oils of Bazin and other manufacturers may be used. But the best, as well as the neatest preparation that I have employed for this purpose, is the hydrocarbon know in commerce as cosmoline. This is a product obtained from petroleum. It is entirely bland and unirritating; never turns rancid, and is comparatively cheap. It may be obtained in the fluid form or as a soft solid.

This procedure, shampooing, drying the hair and applying the greasy preparation, must be repeated daily for three or four weeks. In the course of that time it will be discovered that the production of scales and the falling of the hair has been very markedly decreased. It will then suffice to repeat it two or three times a week for a month or two longer, after which a good shampoo once a week will usually succeed in maintaining a permanent cure.

Most patients will be alarmed after using this method at first, because the hair comes out in greater quantity than before. This is due to the fact that a large number of hairs are dead and only retained in their follicles by the plugging of the sheath with the accumulated sebaceous matter. The patient should, therefore, always be prepared for this result, and

* Hebra & Kaposi; *Hautkrankheiten*, 2. Band Erlangen, 1876.