

## THE ANATOMICAL FACTOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF BALDNESS.

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Cunningham, in opening his chapter on the Dissection of the Scalp, says: "Strictly speaking, the term 'scalp' should be restricted to the soft parts which cover the vault of the cranium above the level of the temporal ridges and the superior curved line of the occipital bone;" while Treves states it is convenient to consider the term "scalp" as limited to the structure formed by the union of the first three layers, viz., the skin, the subcutaneous fatty tissue, or superficial fascia, and the occipito-frontalis muscle and its epicranial aponeurosis.

How strikingly does the scalp area of Cunningham correspond with the area of baldness as seen in most individuals, the subjects of this condition! But still more precisely and accurately does the area of baldness correspond to the area of the epicranial aponeurosis, a structure in which there are no muscular fibres, nor yet any underlying muscular fibres between it and the bone. That the production of baldness has an anatomical factor, I propose now to discuss more in detail.

The skin of the scalp is intimately connected with the underlying epicranial aponeurosis by the superficial fascia. In fact, these two structures are so firmly attached by dense fibrous bands, that it is a difficult undertaking for a dissector to essay their separation. Amongst these meshes lie the fatty tissue, the nerves and the vascular structures before they break up to supply the skin. Similar superficial fascia is found in the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet; and it may be significant to note that of the three regions of the body supplied with this dense superficial fascia, the overlying skin in the two latter is altogether destitute of hairs, whilst the third, the scalp area, very often becomes similarly destitute in later life.

Any one who takes the trouble to examine and observe closely must be struck by the fact that baldness occurs on the top of the head, and rarely if ever extends below the temporal ridges laterally, or even down to the superior curved lines of the occipital bone, posteriorly. It will be noticed also that baldness extends lower in the middle line behind than it does an inch or so on either side of the middle line, posteriorly. This, of course, corresponds to the fact that there are no muscular fibres in the middle of the