

cure in time ; and this one aroused the ire of an eloquent monk of Bretagne, Thomas Connecte by name, who travelled from city to city preaching down the *Commode*, as it was called. He succeeded so well, we are told, that "as the magicians sacrificed their books to the flames upon the preaching of an apostle, so the women threw down their head-dresses in the middle of his sermon, and made a bonfire of them within sight of the pulpit." Though they subsequently sprouted up, they never attained so great an elevation. People who are inclined to censure ladies' head-dresses of the present day, may console themselves with the recollection that our modern fashions are by no mean as ridiculous as those of the days gone by.

Hair-dyes have been in active operation for at least thirty centuries. Though the earlier preparations were generally very poor; there was one made by the Egyptians which, according to some writers, must have been superior to anything now in use ; but its nature is now unknown.

The dyes of the present day are generally quite effective—if people are willing to run the risk of using them ; as they seem to be. Those most prompt and certain in their action—and consequently most popular—are poisonous compounds ; and the medical journals are continually reporting cases of disease and death caused by their use. They are all minerals ; "vegetable" dyes are *bosh*. The principal ingredient is acetate of lead—a very dangerous drug. Erasmus Wilson, the chief English medical authority on all matters connected with the skin and hair, tells us that the most largely used hair restorer in that country contains at least a drachm of this poison to every half pint ; and is sold for more guineas than it costs pence.

In America this is also the case. "General Twigg's Hair Dye," brought into notice shortly after the Mexican War, has been the parent of nearly all the preparations used on the continent since then. We learn from a Boston journal that as many as forty popular mixtures, having different names, and sold by different parties, but identical in composition, were in the market at the same time. The formula for its preparation is thus given :

Acetate of lead—two drachms.
Sulphur—two and one-half drachms.
Rosa water—one pint.
Glycerine—one ounce.

The glycerine and water are first mixed ; then the lead and sulphur