

and best obtainable, and flexible, so as not to break easily.

Some operators prefer a platinum needle. It is certainly flexible and non corrosive, but I prefer the fine steel needles furnished by the dealers. They are sufficiently elastic, and of different grades of fineness, so one can choose according to the work to be done, whether on downy hairs, or removal of a mole, wart, etc.

The needle-holder is a simple but delicate insulated handle, with or without an interrupter. As making and breaking the current on the metal connections always gives a little shock, a plain handle might be preferable; but with an interrupter the operator always has the control more perfectly.

The needle-holder is attached to the negative pole of the galvanic battery, the positive pole being attached to a sponge electrode, which is to be well wetted and applied to the cheek, the neck, or the hand of the patient.

As the sponge rapidly loses its moisture, I prefer a bowl of water conveniently placed, connected with the positive pole, and have the patient touch the water with the tips of one or more fingers, as may be required.

Have everything in readiness, insert the needle directly into the hair follicle, tell the patient to put the fingers to the water, and note the effect. If the current is too strong, the blanching of the tissue immediately around the needle will be very marked; if too weak, very little or no effect will be observable.

The exact number of cells required cannot be stated. Experience must be the guide, but commence with three or four and add as needed. If an acid battery is used and the plates are bright and the fluid fresh, unless care is exercised, the face may be burned, before the hair is killed, especially upon a delicate skin. We do not want a caustic effect, but an electrolytic one. If everything is right the first thing noticed will be a slight redness, then a corresponding blanching, and in from ten to twenty seconds little bubbles of hydrogen will appear around the needle, looking like froth, and the hair should now come out with very gentle traction. If it does not, but requires force, let it alone and withdraw your needle. The probabilities are that it was not in the follicle. Do not operate twice on the same hair at one sitting. Be careful not to insert the needle too far, but just far enough to include the follicle.

The operation gives some little pain, but not more, if as much, as having one's teeth filled, and most ladies say they do not mind it in the least, so anxious are they to have the beard removed.

Some of the hairs may return, but by careful observation it is estimated that not more than five per cent. really reappear if carefully re-

moved. New hairs may come that would in more or less time appear anyway, thus seeming to favor the idea advanced by some that electrolysis is uncertain.

On the contrary it is most certain and satisfactory if skilfully done.

From twenty to twenty-five hairs, sometimes less, sometimes more, are removed at each sitting of from half to three-quarters of an hour, depending upon their size and location.

It is a very delicate operation, exceedingly trying to the eyes of the operator, so the patient should sit in an easy position and a good light, face on the level with the eyes of the operator, both being comfortable in their positions.

No blood should be drawn as a rule, although at times a small capillary will be punctured. Minute scars or cicatrices scarcely perceptible necessarily follow. Sometimes a soothing ointment is ordered, but generally the little punctures heal readily and rapidly without any application.

One operator sometimes left the hairs in after using the needle, when, if they had been killed, they would fall out before the next operation. By passing the hand over the face the little elevations on the skin will indicate what hairs have been operated upon. These exudations will disappear in a short time, generally leaving no trace except the very slight cicatrices before alluded to.

Objection has been made to the method that it acted injuriously upon the facial nerves.

Whilst there may have been a very few cases where such a result seemed to follow electrolysis, the mass of testimony is against any such tendency. It has also been proven that as the blemish disappeared the general health of the patient improved; her spirits, before so much depressed, became buoyant, and other troubles, if present, yielded more readily to appropriate treatment.

The operation may be repeated every day, or even twice a day, if time be of importance; but every other day is preferable, the number of sittings depending upon the amount of work to be done. Half hour sittings are, as a rule, long enough, as one's eyes get very tired even in that short time.

It all seems very simple and easy, but it requires a great deal of care, skill and patience. One may insert the needle and whip out the hairs very rapidly at first, only to find that they were merely pulled out, and not electrolyzed at all. Again, too strong a current may be used, and wheals, ulceration and quite a cicatrix result. This is very likely to follow attempting to remove all or most of the hairs in a mole, or of operating upon hairs too close together at one sitting, even if the current be of the proper strength.—*Dr. William H. Walling in Medical World.*