

epididymis, descend during early life and remain within reach of poultices, iodine, suspensory bandages, etc., and if they could remain free from monthly engorgement, they also might be relieved of congenital defects, physiological abuses, the destructive sequelæ of mumps, the fevers of childhood, and the pernicious gonorrhœal virus, before disorganization had so far advanced as to necessitate their removal. After suppuration has occurred, whether the pus is discharging by the rectum, vagina or not, the treatment instituted by Tait—to open the abdomen, drain the abscess from its fountain source (whether in the broad ligament or between coils of intestines) by stitching the peritoneal margins of the abscess to the abdominal wound and using the drainage tube—is considered the safest and most satisfactory method of treatment. It is preferred to opening the abscess *per vaginam* with the trocar or bistoury; also to enlarging sinuses communicating with the vagina and rectum when such exist. Martin's method of drainage through Douglas' pouch may be more suitable in some cases.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

ELECTROLYSIS IN FACIAL BLEMISHES.

One of the most annoying blemishes upon the female face is superfluous hair.

A manly form or voice or face is rarely coveted by a woman; and it is utterly absurd, even cruel, to tell a lady that such a thing is of very little moment, or a disease that will not kill her.

A mole upon the face, a growth of hair, a slight mother's mark, a sallow complexion or a few wrinkles even have produced such a mental condition in a proud, sensitive woman as to demand the utmost skill of some of our ablest surgeons to combat.

In such a condition, as in all other diseases, the first thing to be done is to remove the cause. Not so very many years ago the only remedy for hypertrichosis was either the razor, the tweezers or a depilatory; not really remedies at all, hardly palliatives. A depilatory is only a deep shave, removing the hair apparently; but seldom in reality, unless it has also destroyed the papillary layer of the skin, which it sometimes does, by setting up such an amount of inflammation as to produce this result. Depilatories thus frequently produce a worse disfigurement than the one intended to be cured, are always unsafe, and their use cannot be too strongly condemned.

The tweezers, like the razor, afford only temporary relief, and in some cases really seem to stimulate the growth.

What relation does this form of blemish bear to the general system? It is found in all types and conditions, and not by any means confined

to the masculine appearing woman.

Strumous persons often present a superabundant growth of the natural hair, and it seems to be generally conceded that an excessive growth is an evidence of an aberration of nutrition, and not of increased vitality.

A moustache upon a lady's face is said by some of our close observers to indicate an enlargement of the ovaries, or at least a derangement of the menstrual function. Cases are on record where a general growth appeared subsequent to the suppression of the catamenia, and disappeared from other parts of the body upon the re-establishment of the menses; but not from the face, though apparently not increasing much. Others where the growth appeared after the re-establishment of the periods; not, however, attributed to such return, but rather to the disturbance to the nervous system caused by the cessation.

Among insane women facial hypertrichosis is of frequent occurrence, but generally appears after the insanity. There appears to be some curious relation between the over development of this form of the epithelium and nervous disorders. As the will power declines, the vegetative functions predominate, and often the sexual power is greatly increased after that change which we call somatic death, the skin in many instances retaining its vitality for a comparatively long time, its vegetative function goes on, and hair and nails are said to have been developed enormously. This is denied by some of our dermatologists. I shall not stop to discuss the point, confining myself to live subjects, only noting the fact before alluded to, that excessive growth of hair is not considered as indication of either strength of body or mind; as Dr. Fox says:

"The Sampsons of our day are clean-limbed and naturally short haired, and an abnormal growth of hair in length or location indicates an abnormal condition of the nervous system."

The razor, the tweezers and depilatories having all failed to remedy this difficulty, Dr. Michael, of St. Louis, in 1875, first suggested electrolysis as a safe and sure method for eradication. Dr. Hardaway was the first to put the suggestion to practical use, followed by Dr. Hentzman and others, until now it is quite extensively practised. Dr. Fox, of N.Y., has written a very concise and plain essay upon this and kindred subjects, issued in the Leisure Library Series.

In this form of electrolysis only very weak currents are used. Most writers say that any good galvanic battery will do, but I think that the ordinary acid battery gives a current of too great quantity. A dry chloride cell, or a Leclanché or a Partz, would in my judgment be much better.

A very small needle should be used, the finest