

and nearly inaccessible to the germicidal action of the medicaments. Vesicants, such as emplastrum cantharides, strong preparations of iodine and of formaldehyde undoubtedly do good, but the treatment is both painful and tedious. The antiseptic treatment would likely be much less tiresome if one could depilate the diseased patches. On account of the brittle condition of the roots of the hairs this can only be effected in one way, and that is by suspending the function of the hair papillæ, and the only known method of producing this result is by submitting the diseased patches to the X-rays. Freund in 1896 suggested this method of epilation in ringworm of the scalp, but the fear of causing burns deterred physicians from putting it in practice. However, recently, as a result of the efforts of Sabourard and his associates, the process of treatment has been perfected until there is very little likelihood of doing harm. Sabourard in his clinic at the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris, causes the hair to fall out after one or two exposures. The hair begins to fall about fifteen days after the treatment, and the desluvium is complete in a few days. During the treatment an ointment, containing an antiseptic, such as iodine, sulphur, salicylic acid, and ammoniated mercury. With this treatment the disease can always be removed in less than three months.

In my work I have only been using X-ray to epilate in ringworm for the last few weeks. For the present I am using short exposures three times a week. The scalp is washed daily, and antiseptic ointment containing salicylic acid, sulphur and ammoniated mercury applied to the patches.

HIGH-FREQUENCY CURRENTS.

In the application of this form of radio therapy to the treatment of skin diseases, I employ an Oudin-Dean resonator, the high potential being received from a fifteen inch coil.

High-frequency currents were introduced into medicine by D'Arsonval, and to him and other French workers we are indebted for the development of this form of radio therapy. D'Arsonval believes it has a marked effect upon metabolism increasing the CO₂ in the case of the human body, from seventeen to thirty-seven litres per hour, and the production of heat from seventy-nine to one hundred and twenty-seven calories per hour. When applied to the skin it produces analgesia or anesthesia. It is also believed by many to diminish the excitability of the nerves and muscles in the neighborhood of the applications. This is no doubt the *rationale* of its action in neuralgia and myalgia.