

carefully regulated. Stimulants should mostly be abstained from previous to the time of going to bed. Before entering the bath care should be taken that the body be not overheated by exercise; on the other hand, the patient should not be cold or chilly. Thus it is often desirable that slight exercise should be taken previous to their use.

All strong emotions should be avoided before bathing, and if they occur, especially of a depressing kind, the bath should be omitted. It follows that children who dread the water should not be compelled to enter the sea, but should be coaxed in. If timid children be violently plunged into the water, they may be made very ill for several days. On leaving the bath a short walk should be taken. Two baths a-day can seldom be indulged in.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

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### BLACK OR BLACKENED SKIN ?

(From a Correspondent.)

About the latter end of 1857 two female children, one apparently about twelve and the other eight years of age, were found on Fraser's Island, at the mouth of the Brisbane, on the eastern coast of Australia. When found they were both *black*, but when washed they became white, except in parts which remained as irregular black patches, scattered about the skin. The black appeared to have been rubbed in, the white skin seemed natural, and the theory was that they had been ship-wrecked on the island, and so marked by natives. The younger turned out clever and industrious, the elder proved a complete idiot, and was sent to the Paramatta Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Rowling, now a distinguished student of King's College, was then Assistant Medical Officer of the Institution, and it occurred to him that the question whether the girl was of black or white origin might be determined by the odour which is peculiar to black races, whether African or Australian. He therefore encouraged this girl to dance until she was in a copious perspiration, when the characteristic perfume, which in Mr. Rimmel's catalogue would be styled "the bouquet de l'Afrique," was very easily recognised by every one present. Some time after this the poor girl died, and Mr. Rowling preserved some of the skin. After coming to England he asked Professor Beale his opinion, who told him that the skin alone would decide whether the pigment was natural or rubbed in. The skin has recently arrived from Australia, and Professor Beale has determined by microscopical examination that the pigment is natural; showing Mr. Rowling to have been correct in his judgment founded on the African odour. This disappearance of pigment will not so much surprise any one who has seen much of the West Indian negroes especially the turtle fishers.—*Med. Times and Gazette*, March 14th, 1866.