

hydrargyri was applied to the chancre. The patient was again seen on February 16th, by which time the ulcer on the lip had perfectly healed, leaving its site only slightly indurated. There was no rash whatever, and she appeared to be in perfect health.

On one of her visits to my office, the patient, as a possible solution of the riddle of how she became infected, told me of a custom of which, up to that time, I had known nothing. She said "that in some of the hair-dressing establishments, the hair-dresser, as a final touch, drew a moistened 'rouge stick' across the lips of her customers." This "rouge stick" is a cylinder composed of a firm, red ointment. The firmness necessitates a slight moistening before being applied, and, disgusting to relate, this is frequently accomplished by the hair-dresser first putting it in her own mouth and then deftly drawing it across the lips of her customers. Then, again, all customers are treated with the same "stick," and my patient told me that "in the shop where she usually went to have her hair dressed she had noticed many 'chemical blondes' and otherwise strikingly dressed women." As far as the character of the young woman under consideration is concerned, however, it may here be remarked that during the entire terrible ordeal of doubt and anxiety which she went through before the diagnosis was absolutely confirmed, she conducted herself in an entirely modest and straightforward manner, so that it was not held likely that she acquired the affection otherwise than by accident. The fact that she went to a shop patronized by those females with whom Isaiah was so out of patience, "they who walk with outstretched necks and wanton eyes, mincing as they go," must not place her by inference among the unrighteous. Neither must her passive submission to an obviously filthy practice stamp her as being uncleanly, for people otherwise dainty in their ways will passively submit through embarrassment or a desire not to offend to many things at the hands of barbers and hair-dressers.

It, of course, can never be known whether this patient was actually inoculated with this public "rouge stick," but there was no doubt that she had a chancre of the lip, and there is also no doubt that this would be a perfectly reasonable way of conveying the disease. It would be analogous to the conveyance of syphilis by means of the stick of nitrate of silver of which there are so many cases on record, and the danger of which was so well recognized that Fournier advised that it be entirely banished from all hospitals and clinics.

It is not at all likely that this filthy use of the "rouge stick" is a custom peculiar to San Francisco, and with such favorable means of conveying syphilis it is wonderful that cases so acquired have not