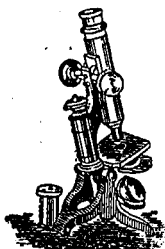


Medical Matters.

PATHOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN THE EYES AND THE TEETH.



Dr. Lagleyze concludes a comprehensive and interesting article on this subject as follows:—1. There exist pathological relationships between the dental system and visual apparatus. In general, it is sufficient to make a searching examination of the teeth in many ocular affections which are without apparent cause, and where ordinary treatment has been inefficacious. 2. Lesions of the dental system may give rise to reflex ocular conditions. These reflexes have been attributed to inanitions or nervous excitations, to vasomotor phenomena by the contraction or dilatation of the vessels, and to obscure changes in secretion and nutrition. A number of examples, however, would indicate a purely functional change. These reflexes may manifest themselves either as alterations in the nutrition, in the motility, or in the general and special sensibility of the organ of sight. The prognosis in general is favourable if the treatment is directed towards the teeth. 3. Inflammatory conditions of the dental system may invade the eye by contiguity of tissue, which, by the intermediation of the venous system, produces microbic infection. In the same manner, toxic agents may gain access to the eye and bring about changes, principally in the uveal membrane. 4. The ocular lesions dependent upon dental lesions are very varied in their nature and symptomatology. 5. Caries and alveolar periostitis are the two dental lesions which most frequently give rise to ocular complications. Dentition, which is abnormally slow, teeth crowded against one another, extraction, artificial teeth, &c, may also act injuriously upon the eyes. 6. All the teeth, although rarely those of the lower jaw, are capable of carrying reflexes or inflammation into the visual apparatus. The small and the first great molar of the superior maxillary most frequently, however, give rise to such complications, especially when they are accompanied by alveolar suppuration or empyæma of the maxillary sinus. 7. Certain ocular affections may provoke neuralgias, which may radiate into the dental branches of the fifth nerve, and may make it appear as though the ocular affection was due to a dental lesion, mistaking

the cause for the effect. An extensive and complete bibliography is added.

THE WHITENING OF THE HAIR.

The gradual whitening of the head with age which comes to most men and women is viewed with resignation by some, with a kind of grim despair by others, and with indifference by many. It is a manifestation of the course of Nature that also forms a lucrative source of income to many barbers and inventors of hair dyes and nostrums. Recently, in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Dr. Metchnikoff has, from investigations of his own, come to the conclusion that the atrophic process which affects the pigment of the hair in such a manner as to cause that blanching which is at once the delight of the sage and the despair of the society lady is due to the intervention of phagocytes. These cells are found primarily in the medullary portion of the hair-shaft, are uni-nuclear, exhibit active amoeboid movement, and make their way outward to the cortical layer, where they absorb the pigment granules and remove them from the hair. Dr. Metchnikoff classes the process as an atrophy, but does not profess to indicate more than its mechanism. Speculation is at present the only means of finding an explanation of the real cause or causes that set this mechanism into action. It is impossible to say whether the pigment granules undergo some change which makes them a readier prey for the phagocytes or whether the latter are endowed with new energy. The general association of white hair with senility would, perhaps, indicate the probability of the former supposition. Little as is, however, known upon the matter, the discovery of the true cause in phagocytosis may give the clue to some enterprising and enthusiastic skin specialist as to a treatment. Were it to do so, an easy fortune awaits him.

DISINFECTION OF BOOKS BY POWDERED FORMOL.

M. Barbe has proved experimentally that books may carry tuberculosis, as he has found the bacteria upon leaves which have been impregnated with the sputum of tuberculous subjects, and has infected animals with the disease. They can be thoroughly disinfected, he has found, by the use of the commercial powdered formol, or in a formalin-generating autoclave. The animals inoculated after disinfection of the books have remained well.

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