

HUMAN HAIR.

In every age and country, the hair of woman has been considered an object of beauty; and St. Paul states that long hair is a glory to her. The form of human hair varies from that of a delicate round tube to that of a minute flat ribbon; and it is supplied through the interior with an oil from which it receives its peculiar color. Round hair is straight and is generally soft; while flat hair is usually crisp or curly. The ancient Greeks and Romans admired yellow or golden hair as a mark of female beauty; but tastes differ in individuals and nations. It cannot be questioned, however, that long soft hair, whether flowing in spirals, or in a waving form, and of whatever color—black, brown, or yellow—is attractive and much admired. Every woman seems to be animated with a natural desire to obtain long hair, and every man seems ambitious to preserve his natural head-gear in all its native strength.

BALDNESS.—As baldness is generally considered a calamity by both sexes, its causes should be investigated in order to provide a remedy, if this is possible. The *American Phrenological Journal*, in a recent interesting article on hair, states that baldness "is always an unnatural and therefore a diseased condition; though it by no means implies general derangement in all cases. It is believed by some to indicate power and activity of mind, and this may sometimes be the case; as undue mental exertion, by producing a febrile condition of the head, affects the hair in the same way as a fever, though not in the same degree. But we believe that baldness oftener than anything else, indicates the wearing of our modern water-proof and air-proof hats, which keep that portion of the head which they cover, constantly heated and unventilated. In corroboration of this remark, it may be observed that the hair is generally thick and healthy below the point covered with the hat, and that women, who use no air-tight covering for the head, are seldom bald." As if to contradict this latter theory of the cause of baldness, however, the *Journal* adds, "We are told that of all the honors conferred upon Cesar, there was none that he accepted more gratefully than the right to wear the civic crown, which served to conceal his baldness." Cesar certainly never wore one of our modern water-proof air-tight hats; but he possessed an intensely active mind, which may have caused his baldness. We also read that the prophet Elisha was bald, though he surely never had the misfortune to wear an air-tight hat; for he went uncovered. Baldness is certainly due to a disease of the scalp, or the roots of the hair, but the cause of this disease is not understood. A recent writer upon this subject in England, states that the ancient Britons in their barbaric state, possessed hair long, strong, and sufficiently thick to resist the cut of a sword; and the prevalence of baldness in Englishmen of the present day he attributes in a great measure to increased mental pursuits.

Immense are the lotions and compounds now sold under the pretense of keeping the hair from falling out; others under the pretense of producing long flowing hair; while others again profess to cure baldness and restore the hair to all its youthful vigor. Hogsheads of liquids are sent forth under such pretenses; but they all seem to be as effectual in accomplishing their objects, as so much water. The *Phrenological Journal* comes nearer the truth, respecting the preservation of the hair, than all the professors of hair fertilization. It asserts that vigorous health conduces most to preserve the hair, and says "when all the vital functions are in good working order and activity, we find the hair bright, glossy, and pleasant to the touch; but on the contrary, when the body is diseased, the blood impure, or the system feverish, the hair becomes harsh, dry, and coarse, and the head covered with dandruff. With returning health, the hair resumes its original quality and condition."

GRAY HAIR.—With advancing years, the hair of the head loses the color of youth and becomes white. Gray hair is simply a mixture of white with hairs of the previous color—brown or black. This change of hue is not caused by disease of the hair itself, but from a want of the oil supplied by the hair follicles. White and gray hair grow as luxuriantly as the best crops of red, brown, or sable. The cause of the

natural-colored hair oil becoming deficient, is not well known. It is on creditable record that many persons have become suddenly gray from fear and grief. Byron in his immortal "Prisoner of Chillon" touches on this topic with a master hand:

"My hair is gray but not with years,
Nor grew it white in a single night."

We are acquainted with a gentleman whose hair turned from a jet black to gray within two weeks, during intense mental study and anxiety; but, strange to relate, all those gray hairs afterwards departed and his dark locks returned again. In some families early gray hair is hereditary. The members of a large family of men and women known to us, have become gray at from twenty to twenty-five years of age, and almost snow-white at thirty-five. Their hair is strong and they are not subject to early baldness. The hair of the father of this family became white at an early age. In order to retain a youthful appearance, many persons dye their gray hair. Preparations of the nitrate of silver are chiefly used for this purpose. For the bald-headed, the only sure receipt to impart a more youthful aspect, is the use of an uncomfortable wig. During the early part of the last century, wigs were fashionable, and were worn by both old and young folks. When we gaze upon the pictures of the great men of that era, with their splendid flowing locks, it should not be forgotten that they were indebted to the wig-maker for them.

LONG AND SHORT HAIR.—Many customs have prevailed among the fair sex respecting the mode of arranging the hair, and they have a right to adopt a variety of changes; but cutting the hair short and wearing it like boys is not commendable. Men have at different times worn the hair long. This has ever been condemned as an unscriptural custom. In the days of Charles the First of England, the Cavaliers, who despised close religious forms, wore long hair; while the Puritans cut theirs short, and were called "round heads." It has been calculated that by continual cutting and shaving of the hair, about seven feet in length is removed from a man in twenty-five years. Some writers assert, that the practice of close cutting and shaving tends to weaken the body. Such writers draw a powerful argument from old Sampson, who, when all unshorn, slew several thousand Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass.

COLOR OF THE HAIR.—All the native people living under the tropics have black hair; while the light-haired races are chiefly found in the cold regions. But this is not an arbitrary distinction, as all the aboriginal races on the American continent, extending from Patagonia to the Arctic sea, have black hair. The Danes of Europe are held to be the red-haired race; the Germans the fair-haired race. In Great Britain and Ireland, there is no distinctive color of the hair; but dark brown is the most common in the former, and black in the latter. The ancient Gauls of France and the Caledonians of Scotland, were described by the Romans as yellow-haired races; but this color of the hair is now seldom seen in any part of the world. As the people of the United States are composed of a mixture of all the European nations, their hair of course is as mixed in color as their descent; but in childhood, it is most generally fair, growing darker with advancing years, until full maturity is reached.

The President's Proclamation of Thanksgiving.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation appointing the last Thursday of November as a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings and favors bestowed upon the land, even amid the havoc and desolation of our sad war. The proclamation is couched in chaste and beautiful language, and is pervaded with an humble and devout spirit. We take this opportunity of suggesting that all the governors of the loyal States appoint the same day for the usual States thanksgiving, so that it may be kept in the spirit of unity and the bonds of fraternal concord, by every household in the land.

WOODWARD'S Mill, in Woodstock, Vt., consumes 175,000 lbs. of wool annually, all of the finest quality, and at present mostly foreign wool. The doekins made are equal to the best French. Vermont grown wool is the finest in the world, having taken the first prize at Hamburg, in competition with European Saxony fleeces.

RECENT AMERICAN PATENTS.

The following are some of the most important improvements for which Letters Patent were issued from the United States Patent Office last week. The claims may be found in the official list:—

Grain Dryer.—This invention consists in the employment or use of a series of spiral conveyors in connection with perforated concaves, in which the conveyors are placed and work, and placed, with the concaves, over a kiln or hot-air chamber, and all arranged in such a manner that the grain to be dried will be moved along in a thin stratum, and subjected in the most efficient manner to the hot air, which dries the former by evaporating the moisture contained in it. It also consists in a novel way of feeding the grain to the conveyors and operating or driving the latter; and, further, in a means employed for cooling the grain after the drying process is performed, to admit of the grain being stored away safely in bulk. W. H. Sutton and J. J. Gibson, of Brantford, Canada West, are the inventors of this improvement.

Treating Sulphates of Copper, Cobalt and Nickel to obtain their Chlorides.—Heretofore it has been customary for the separation of two or more sulphates to use the difference of temperature or concentration of a solution and let it crystallize; but the sulphates of copper, cobalt and nickel—the separation of which cannot be effected by crystallization, nor by the usual mode of separation employed for those metals—have been precipitated by the addition of lime or other reagents, and then dissolved in muriatic or other acid, so as to obtain those metals as chlorides, in which form they are easily separated. The object of this invention is to obtain the chlorides of those metals in a more economical manner, and to this end it consists in the treatment of the sulphates by the use of chlorides of sodium or other compounds of chlorine, such as chloride of potassium, chloride of calcium, chloride of magnesium, chloride of strontium, and the hypochlorites of lime, potassa or soda; but especially the chloride of sodium, because of its cheapness and the readiness with which it can be obtained. Alfred Monnier, of Philadelphia, Pa., is the inventor of this improvement. Further information may be had of Geo. T. Lewis, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Diving Apparatus.—The object of this invention is to enable a diver to carry with him a sufficient supply of fresh air to last for several hours, and also buoys which he can inflate at pleasure, so that he can rise to the surface, whenever he thinks proper, without the aid of other persons. The invention consists in the application to an ordinary diving dress of a reservoir which is capable of containing a sufficient quantity of compressed air to last the diver for several hours, and which is strapped to the shoulders or otherwise secured to the dress, communicating with the interior of the same by a pipe provided with a faucet, in such a manner that the supply of air to the interior of the dress can be regulated at any moment, and the driver is free to move in any direction, carrying on his back the required supply of air; the invention consists also in combining with the diving dress and air reservoir two, more or less, expansible buoys communicating with the interior of the reservoir by means of a pipe or pipes provided with a faucet, in such a manner that by admitting air to the buoys the driver is enabled to rise to the surface whenever he may desire and without assistance. T. C. McKeen is the inventor of this apparatus.

Rock drilling Machine.—This invention relates to a new and improved rock-drilling machine for tunneling and other purposes, and it consists in constructing and arranging the parts in such a manner that the drill may be turned and adjusted in either a vertical or a horizontal plane, so that holes may be bored in any desired direction, that is to say, either vertically, horizontally, or at any degree of inclination between said positions, and at any point in a circle the plane of which coincides or is parallel with the axis of the drill. The invention further consists in a novel arrangement of means for operating the drill, whereby the same is drawn back from the hole after each stroke and turned while being drawn back, thus imitating or corresponding with the ordinary hand manipulation of the drill, the blow being given the drill by means of a hammer operated by a cam and