

"But the fraud was only on one side. Our good friends here acted in good faith."

"No matter."

"Hard lines, sir, I call it."

"Undoubtedly," piped Mr. Spender; "but such, madam, is the law."

"Then this lady and gentleman have no redress?"

"They may prosecute for forgery and conspiracy to defraud," remarked Mr. Pike, who had recovered his equanimity, airily. "Providentially, there exists between this country and France an extradition treaty, and there will not be the least difficulty in procuring the arrest of Mr. Shuttleworth and——"

"My husband!" cried Mrs. Vorley, covering her face with her hands. "No! Bad, reprobate as he is, I once loved him!"

"Pardon me," I said. "It was he, then, who persecuted Mr. Spender?"

"Yes; and that same evening he presented himself at my apartments, and begged money of me," she sobbed. "I know how infamous he is, how cruelly, shamelessly, he has defrauded you, yet you will have pity!"

"For your sake, we will both spare him."

"This is generous, noble of you," she said, removing her hands and gazing at us through her tears. Then in a firmer voice: "Is it true, sir, that the thirteen hundred pounds paid for Belvoir was your wife's money?"

"By far the greater portion of it."

"Thank you," she answered; and turning to Sarah, she said, "My dear, you must keep Belvoir. I consider the place is as much yours as if—don't excite yourself, dear! Help! she's going to faint. Fetch my smelling-salts from the carriage. Mr. Lovegrove, you ought never to have allowed your wife to encounter all this—but men are so stupid. You feel better now, dear, don't you? There, take another sniff. What's that I hear—you can't keep Belvoir? Well, we shall see. Now, Mr. Lovegrove, help me to assist your wife to my brougham, which is at your service. Put her to bed the moment you reach home. Bless you both—good-bye!"

That night a son and heir was born to me.

Sarah, poor girl, had a very hard time of it.

For weeks she lay 'twixt life and death, and was only spared to me by God's mercy and the unflagging care and attention of two devoted women.

How can I adequately thank that good kind soul Aunt Jemima, that noble generous creature Mrs. Vorley, or as she preferred to be called, Miss Nellie Carew?

To the latter I felt I was under the more overwhelming obligation, and on the eve of her departure I endeavoured to convey my acknowledgment in words, winding up by saying that Sarah could not possibly accept Belvoir as a gift.

"I will not hear of your leaving Belvoir," she said earnestly. "No; your charming wife must keep her pretty, elegant home. To pay me even a peppercorn rent would spoil everything. Consider yourselves under no obligation to me. The satisfaction I shall feel will be cheaply purchased by the sacrifice of a few hundred pounds. Never expect to see me at Belvoir again; this visit was exceptional. The associations, the memories, that cling about the place are too painful. Besides, I have other reasons. There is nothing more to add; only think kindly sometimes of poor Nellie Carew. Good-bye, Mr. Lovegrove, good-bye!"

A few weeks later, having occasion to go to Southampton Buildings, I heard that Messrs. Vorley and Shuttleworth had been arrested by the French authorities for extensive swindling, had been tried, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

Scarcely had I turned into the Strand, when I met Tomkyns.

"Holloa, Lovegrove, old boy!" he exclaimed, holding me by the hand, with a seriousness of manner foreign to him. "You remember going with me some months back to the Albert Hall, to——"

"Hear Nellie Carew?" I said, a sickly faintness coming over me. "Yes; what of her?"

"Simply that we're not likely to hang upon her dulcet notes again. She's gone."

"Gone! Where to?"

"To the States—sailed from Liverpool yesterday, old boy, in the *City of Baltimore*. It seems she's accepted an offer of an immense sum of money to sing in America, and, I've been most confidentially informed, will never again appear publicly in England."

W. J. F.

WHY THE HAIR TURNS GREY.

BY A FAMILY DOCTOR.

GREY hair in the vast majority of instances is rightly regarded as a sign of advancing years. And a most unwelcome sign, too! We can no longer conceal from ourselves, nor from our friends—there's the rub—that the hey-day of our youth is gone. We draw no new delights with hoary hairs. We are branded with grey locks, the pursuivants of death. But premature greyness is

often due to what may be called accidental causes, and need have no such significance. It must also be remembered that greyness has many compensating advantages.

It commands respect all the world over; a certain dignity and courtliness belong inalienably to the possessor of white hair. There is also the further consolation that the hair is not lost. Baldness and

greyness are, nevertheless, very closely related, as we shall see when we are considering the causes of greyness. The colour of hair is due to a pigment which is deposited in the hair-shaft, and the various shades of colour are due to differences in the quantity of this pigment, which is different in different people.

1. When the pigment is entirely absent from the hair at birth, it is also wanting in other situations where it is normally present. The eyes are generally devoid of colour, and the curious condition known as Albinism results. Albinos are found among many other animals besides man: for example, instances are occasionally seen in the domestic cat. In the cases where the pigment is absent at birth, and where it is never developed, a defective growth of the teeth is frequently observable, showing the close relation which exists in the development of apparently widely differing structures. The same association is noticed in cases where hair is not developed. Babies are not infrequently born without hair, but it usually grows within a short time. Rarely, however, no hair grows, and the child born bald remains so all its life.

2. Acquired greyness results partly from a deficient development of the pigment, normally present, and partly from the presence of minute bubbles of air in the hair-shaft. Both these conditions are due to a defect of nutrition. How may the nutrition of the hair be injuriously affected?

With advancing years there is a general shrinking of the tissues of the skin, the blood supply becomes less abundant, and the nutrition of the hair suffers in consequence. The defective nutrition may be manifested in one of two ways.

(1) The growing hair is devoid of pigment, and greyness results. It is to be noticed that hair first becomes grey nearest the root, so that when the hair is cut the greyness is made more obvious. The hair in the neighbourhood of the ears usually begins to lose its colour first.

Or, (2) the new hair which is ever being developed to replace the hair which is as constantly being cast is of finer texture and of less vigorous growth, so that gradually the thick "head of hair" becomes thinner and thinner—fine downy hair is only seen; eventually baldness results.

Baldness may begin on the crown and travel forwards towards the forehead, or it may begin near the forehead, which gradually "extends backwards" until all the hair of the crown is lost. Whether it be our fate to become grey or to become bald depends very largely upon hereditary influences. Premature greyness occurs—apparently, at least—more frequently among dark-haired people than among the fair-haired. It is difficult to decide whether this is really so, for a slight degree of greyness is more conspicuous owing to the stronger contrast of colour in the former than in the latter. Moreover, dark-haired people are in the majority.

2. Defective nutrition of the hair may be due to local causes. The pressure of the hard hat so universally worn by men is held responsible for the more frequent occurrence of baldness in the male sex.

Women, however, commonly suffer from thinness of hair, and this has been traced by some to the damage done to the hair by frequent frizzing, or by the strain put against its roots in certain forms of hair-dressing. One explanation of the frequent change in the style of hair-dressing is that time is thus afforded for the hair to recover from the ill-treatment to which it is periodically subjected.

Another local cause of defective nutrition is an affection of the nerves of the scalp, in consequence of which patches of hair become grey. Sometimes these grey patches are noticed in childhood. They are occasionally seen in the beard, and more rarely in the moustache. A patchy form of baldness, most frequent in childhood, is attributed to a similar cause. It is seen in persons of a nervous temperament, and recovery is almost certain.

The impaired nutrition of hair may be due to certain affections of the scalp. These may result either in temporary or permanent baldness. Ringworm, for instance, causes temporary baldness, which varies in extent and distribution according to the severity of the affection. When the ringworm is cured the hair grows again. But the importance of one affection characterised by excessive greasiness and scurfiness has not been generally realised. Allowed to continue indefinitely, the growth of hair is inevitably affected and baldness is certain to result.

3. Lastly, certain constitutional causes affect the nutrition and growth of hair. The hair may be shed during an attack of fever or other acute illness, and new hair is slow in growing until the bodily strength is well-established.

Any great mental excitement, such as fear or excessive anxiety, has been followed by rapid bleaching of the hair. The hair has been said to become white in the course of a few hours; but these cases are very rare, and it is doubtful whether they are based on very accurate information, and a certain amount of scepticism is justifiable.

We may conclude that baldness and greyness are really symptoms of impaired nutrition of the hair. How are they to be prevented?

Of primary importance is the preservation of sound general and local health. But even with perfect individual hygiene greyness or baldness may be developed. At the first sign of either one or the other an attempt must be made to find the cause. Any affection of the scalp which may be discovered must be vigorously treated and cured, if possible.

In this connection I must call attention to the great influence of frequent washing with unsuitable soap. Many cheap soaps contain what is known as free alkali. Such a soap tends to affect the scalp very injuriously, and may either originate or perpetuate an eczema there. It is sound economy to buy good soap, in which all the alkali has been neutralised.

Too much friction is injurious, and for this reason over-hard brushes are to be avoided. Often a wash of borax and water—a teaspoonful of borax to a pint of water—is very efficacious where there is excessive greasiness. It is, however, apt to make the hair too

dry, and must therefore be used with discretion. The most important point to be emphasised is the necessity for early treatment. Once the hair is destroyed, no power on earth can restore it.

It is frequently a comparatively easy matter, however, to prevent the spread of the mischief by appropriate remedies. It cannot be too often stated that in medicine no two cases are ever precisely alike. There is always a "personal equation." A timely consultation with the family medical attendant would often result in the saving of much suffering and expense.

For these reasons I can recommend no special remedies. I believe one of the earliest prescriptions preserved to us is a recipe for a hair lotion. It was prepared some 3,000 or 4,000 years ago by a king of Egypt, who, like the other rulers of that country, practised and studied medicine. The antiquity of affections of the hair is thus obviously very great.

There is a reverse condition to which allusion may be made. I refer to excessive hairiness. Bearded ladies are rare even in exhibitions, but in a minor degree excessive hairiness is not uncommon. It causes infinitely more distress of mind than baldness. The only treatment admitting of general application is the removal of the superfluous hair by means of a razor.

It is a popular error to suppose that repeated shaving results in stimulating the growth of the hair; but this treatment is inconvenient, and requires skill. Depilatories often injure the skin. There is also the same objection to their use as there is to shaving—that they must be continually applied.

The only cure which is permanent consists in destroying the hair-roots by electrolysis. Even this treatment may be protracted, and must necessarily be undertaken only by a duly-qualified specialist.

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

BY ALFRED F. ROBBINS.

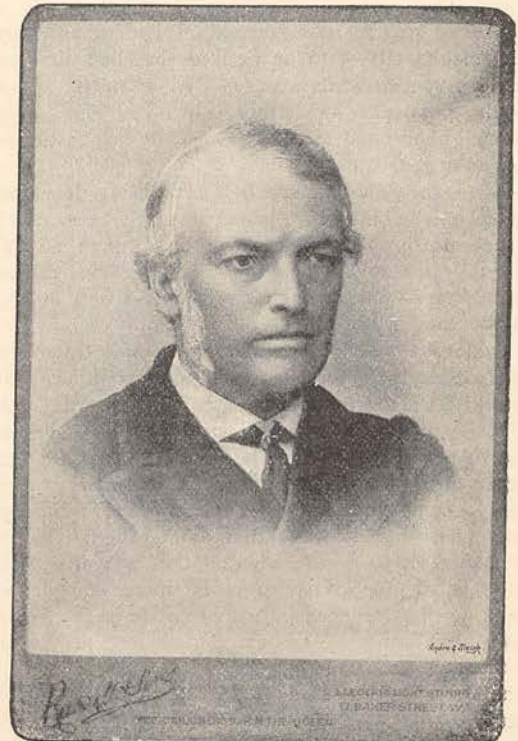
V.—HOW MEMBERS WORK.

THOSE of us who have ever had the fortune to be present at a dinner at which our local Member has responded to the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," will know that no branch of the service of the public is so hardly worked as the legislative body. In tones in which pomp struggles with pity for the mastery, "our honoured representative," as the nearest friendly newspaper names him, tells us how, from early morn to dewy eve, and even to early morn again, he is engaged at Westminster on behalf of his constituents in particular and of the country at large. Not for him are the gauds of London life; salons sigh in vain for his presence; the houses of the great tempt him not from his allegiance to duty. Toil, unremitting toil, is his portion; and that constituency is ungrateful indeed which does not recognise by re-election the sacrifices he has made.

When one has listened to a speech like this, the tear of sympathy starts involuntarily to the eye, and one marvels more and more at the fund of patriotism which must exist in a nation that can permanently supply 670 such hardy workers for their country's good, and just as many more who, if the polls were favourable, would like to take their places. The cold breath of suspicion is apt to blur the picture when the newspapers relate the joys of the terrace, the comforts of the smoking-room, and the cosiness of the library. But it is only a breath after all; for, despite its compensations—and it has such—a Parliamentary life to a conscientious Member is full of opportunities for work.

This is not easily to be comprehended by those who judge of House of Commons' proceedings only from what they read in the daily press. The results of the

question hour and the reports of the debates are all that the public know of what Parliament does; and yet it is not a paradox to state that these are the least useful, although the most lengthened, portion of the



THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY JAMES, Q.C., M.P.
(Chairman of the Standing Committee on Law.)