

The Story of Hair

beauty to the fields. Would man's existence have been threatened by the absence of hair in antediluvian times? Shell fish, seal and polar bear all live in the same element, vastly differently clothed. The rhinoceros, elephant, snake, turtle and crocodile exist under the same equatorial sun without a vestige of hair and are accredited to live much longer than intelligent man. The naked native, unclothed, with but a small patch of frizz on his scalp, lives with the hairy lion. Is the hairy lion a creature more valuable to the Creator and Regulator of all things, now and at all times, than man, himself? Even the Eskimo, dwelling for ages past amid snow and ice, is not better provided for than the native of the Gold Coast. He, too, with all the rest of mankind has sidestepped from the status of man-beast and has become intelligent. *He is no longer hair covered because the impelling urge of self-preservation has diminished. Each small rise of his forehead has meant more organized life, less application of the primitive brain cells and less hair.*

CHAPTER III

WHAT MAN HAS LOST

THE modern individual's course of life runs in a groove of almost pre-described essential influences and events. He follows laws, customs and softening formulæ from the cradle to the grave. His high-gabled crown, where present at birth and holding the secret of his ancestral connections and his animal inclinations in the form of primitive brain cells, is flattened down as his forehead rises. The primitive brain cells, being ill-adapted for modern conditions, atrophy and lose their force. Animal at birth, man turns into a civilized human almost as soon as he learns to walk upright. Millions of hair outlets covering the whole body even of the newly-born twentieth century child, had been ready to fill up when the embryo emerged from its journey through the ancestral ages, but there was no supply for them. The scalp surface was adequate to take care of its diminished quantity of hair that modern man produced.

The Story of Hair

How much hair and how much of his original self-instinct man has lost since the dawn of civilization becomes fully evident to us under examination with the help of statistics.

Primitive baby was, no doubt, like all young babies of fur-bearing animals, either hair covered at birth or became so within a few days or weeks thereafter. We may also assume that primitive baby's size at birth was equal to modern baby's and that his growth all through life was on a basis corresponding to modern man's. Antediluvian baby, then, possessed, as the modern baby does, a body surface of approximately 300 square inches, all hair-covered except the palms and soles, which have no hair-outlets, and the so-called erogenous (sex) fields which produce during adolescence. Of this total, the scalp is all the modern child can fill and, by measurement comparisons, no more than one-tenth, or thirty square inches, the approximate size of a new-born infant's scalp. Thus modern infant arrives in this world with ninety per cent less hair than its antediluvian prototype possessed.

The infant's hair production begins with its

What Man Has Lost

fourth embryonic month, so that whatever hair it may bring along into this world is the development of the last six months. At birth, an average infant weighs six pounds (ninety-six ounces) and if his scalp is fully hair-covered the weight of this appendage is one-half ounce, or, roughly, one-half of one per cent of its total body weight. Yet, even with this small percentage the modern infant has already far surpassed hair production that will occur during any period of the life which is to come. For example: At the age of ten, the child's scalp area has increased to seventy square inches, and his body surface to 1200 square inches. Thus the hair-covered area is now only six per cent of the whole. In other words, a loss of ninety-four per cent. By this time the body weight has increased to seventy pounds, or 1120 ounces, and his six months' hair production has risen to one and one half ounces. Actually, however, the hair production has fallen in comparison with the increase of the body weight from one-half of one per cent (.5%) at birth or soon after, to 14 per cent.

Let us consider the adult at the age of twenty-

The Story of Hair

one, six feet in height and of normal proportions. In this case the body surface has increased to 2705 square inches of which the scalp is part to the extent of 115 square inches. This shows a further decrease from six per cent at the age of ten to four and three tenths per cent. Or, if we compare it with the embryonic production, there is now a decline of about fifty-five per cent since birth.

The six-foot tall man's body weight has increased from seventy pounds at the age of ten to 170 pounds (2720 ounces) while his last six months' hair production has now increased to two and one quarter ounces, but which is actually a depreciation to .07 per cent from .14 per cent at the age of ten and 0.5 per cent at the time of birth.

Antediluvian baby of similar dimensions and its hair elimination figured on the basis of the modern production, produced during the six embryonic months two and one-half ounces of hair or five times more than the embryo of the twentieth century produces. Two and one-half ounces of hair are approximately two and one-half per cent of its total body weight as against

What Man Has Lost

the one-half of one per cent of the modern baby.

At the age of ten, the hair-covered ancestral child had produced twenty ounces of hair during its last six months against the modern child's one and one-half ounces. The twenty ounces are one and eight tenths per cent of its total body weight of seventy pounds as compared with .14 of the modern child at ten.

At the age of twenty-one, the hair production of prehistoric man had risen to fifty-five ounces every six months against modern man's production of two and one-quarter ounces. This means that the former produced two per cent of its total body weight in hair against modern man's .07 per cent.

We can find the story of our hair deterioration graphically represented at the present day by the baby in the cradle. In one household there is a chubby, rosy child with well-rounded head, pink tinted cheeks and attractive aspect. He is happy and sociable and spends much of the day in satisfied contemplation of his surroundings. The world is his and it is good. He fits naturally into the smooth and agreeable groove provided for him. He coos and smiles to express his con-

The Story of Hair

tentment. He is a normal modern baby, but his hair growth is weak. At birth he had almost none, and the little scalp is still bare and bald after many months. In another cradle we find a striking contrast—a child with high crowned skull. He has a receding forehead and in his actions a strain of primeval fear still asserts itself. He has a lean face, a sharp chin and his cheeks have a grayish tint. He whines and frets, is restless in solitude although resentful of the approach of strangers. There is difficulty with his feeding. He refuses or is unable to properly assimilate his food—yet, the doctor pronounces him healthy. He is a trial and tribulation to his mother who, however, will assert that her baby came into this world with his scalp fully haired. But he does not like this world. Who knows what goes on behind that wrinkled skin and furrowed brow? Perhaps dreams of mountain caves and savage beasts, of a hairy breast that satisfied him better than the insipid contents of a rubber capped bottle. Indeed this may be more than a surmise for the mental and physical characteristics of this child, his inability to adjust himself to the orderly process of civilized

What Man Has Lost

babyhood, are suggestive of the exigencies and the outlook of his primitive ancestor. During his development this baby will run the whole gamut of the ages. Sheltered and protected, his adjustment to life will be achieved with considerable difficulty, until he acquires modern social standards.

One question only remains to be answered when we look back over all the ages and stages of man's progress and measure them. The question is how much loss of hair can be attributed to each century as a result of civilizing influences on our instincts. We have seen that prehistoric man produced 110 ounces of hair each year against modern man's four and one-half ounces and that the former's infant produced two and one-half ounces in its embryonic course against the one-half ounce of modern baby. But for comparison we have taken quite an exceptional infant, for only one in ten born at the present day produces as much as one-half ounce of hair in its embryonic stage. There are others who have much less but even the infant which is born hairless has gone through a period of hair production in the womb which hair,

The Story of Hair

however, fell off during the course of passage at birth or even at some previous time. Indeed without hair the infant could not have lived. If the natural instincts of self-preservation (whose activity alone leads to hair production) are so weak as to fail in this respect, life will not develop sufficiently. The infant will emerge still-born before the prescribed time.

CHAPTER IV

THE RACE AND ITS HAIR (SEX PRODUCTION)

THE ugly dreams of great beasts with tremendous horns and tails and of overwhelming ocean waves which frightened the child in the cradle and made him cry are becoming few and they frighten him no more. He has learned that beasts really represented cows and horses which are quite harmless, and the thundering waves of the big ocean into which he seemed to have been thrown and which crashed over him even in his soft warm cot, were nothing but distorted recollections of water in the bath tub in which he played before being put to bed. "Nightmares," the nurse called them. It is true that thunder and lightning still frighten him and make him run behind mother's skirt, but at every corner of the street stands a kindly man with a stick in his hand with which he beats that which tries to do the child harm.

Ten years or so have gone by since the little one arrived on this globe from his long journey