HUMAN HAIR.

Its Growth After Death the Wildest of Vagaries.

There was a weird and curious interest, says the Detroit *Free Press*, in the following exposition of a subject which has engaged a good deal of attention since the morning stars first sang together. Those that find pleasure in either the ghastly or the scientific will thank the writer for his dissertation:

...m very frequently asked and written to by parties in the city and out of the city concerning the growth of hair after death. As I am somewhat tired of answering the question, probably you will allow the use of your columns for a more public reply, and hope, a more final answer. It is only a few days since I received the inclosed clipping from one of our lawyers, several others having been received from other parties:

"In the philosophical collections of Multorus there is an account of a woman buried at Nuremburg, whose grave being opened forty-three years after her death, hair was found growing through the clefts of the coffin. When the cover was removed, the whole shape of the corpse was visible, but was covered from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot with thick-set hair, long and curled. The sexton was about to handle the upper part of the head, when the whole fell apart at once, and nothing remained but a handful of hair. There was neither skull nor any other bone left, yet the hair was solid and strong. Mr. Arnold relates the case of a man who was hanged on the gallows for a petty theft, as was formerly the case in England, whose body was covered with growing hair before it was cut down from the gallows."

In my work upon "The Hair, Its Growth, Care, Disease and Treatment," I have considered the subject, and the conclusions there given were reached after much examination of the authentic literature upon the subject, and numerous experiments made upon the cadaver.

As to the phenomena observed at the open grave of the Nuremburg woman, it is easily explained. The substance supposed to be hair was not hair at all, simply the use in interlacings of tree or plant rootlets about the decaying figure within the coffin. That plants do envelop decaying animal substances in this manner has been demonstrated so many times that it is not necessary to go into the particulars. The great majority of cases of reported hair growth in the grave are to be explained upon this hypothesis.

As to the criminal case, in the above cipling, it is explained by the fact that the man was previously quite hairy, and then the shrinking of the tissues from his hairy covering, through the process of evaporation of the juices of the body through exposure, produced an apparent growth. I myself have repeatedly witnessed this apparent growth in anatomical specimens that I have had preserved, for the special consideration of this question.

Hair is one of the least destructible parts of our body. In the grave it is the last of all the tissues to yield to decay. From the ancient catacombs it is taken in a state of excellent preservation. The cranial covering that once bedecked the citizens of ancient Thebes have survived the moldering influences of the tomb, unaided by embalming, some 4000 years. Hair is so lasting the Karnack pyramids and the Sphinx itself; aye, more lasting, for these monuments are now crumbling, through their weight of years, while some of the wigs of human hair, exposed to the mold and moisture of their entombed apartments for these thousands of years, are even less attacked by the tooth of time than are the monuments themselves. Flesh and blood pass away before the disintegration of hair commences. Many suppose that hair derives elements of growth from this decay all about it, but such is not the case.

Its growth after death is more a horrid fiction than anything else. It is entirely at variance with all scientific and physiological principles. I am well aware that many accredited instances of such post-mortem growth are quoted. But this is only believed by those who are superstitious and who delight in the marvelous. Hair growth is just as much a living physiological process as is the setting of the heart. Both depend upon circulating blood for their food, and when this is denied them, both cease to live. Even the heart receives no life from the blood it propels throughout the system, except it first force it into small arteries that feed its muscular substance; it draws no nourishment from the volume of blood that surges through its ventricles every twenty-four hours; it would cease to beat instantly if left to this alone for life. So, too, the hair; concentrate all the blood in the system at its roots, and it will get no nourishment unless the blood first traverses the minute capillaries that go to feed its papillæ, which furnish life and substance to the cells ceaselessly at work therein, building up the hair shaft, cell after cell.

I admit an apparent growth of the hair after death; but there is a vast difference between this growth and a genuine one. The apparent growth is made from just the opposite conditions that would favor an actual one, for the "apparent" is seen only on the shrinking of the skin tissues, squeezing the blood and nourishment out of them, through contraction of the skin, a more projected appearance of the hair-cylinder, which, to an unpracticed eye would strikingly simulate real elongation. I have had anatomical specimens in my possession for months, and only this "apparent" growth, through shrinkage of tissue about the eyebrows, hair or beard, could be detected. I have seen, though, what I took to be a slight whitening of the locks in an aged specimen, due, probably, to atmospheric influences entirely. But as to the absolute growth of hair after death, I believe it to be the wildest vagary.

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Small Eastern, raw or stewed, 25 cts. per plate
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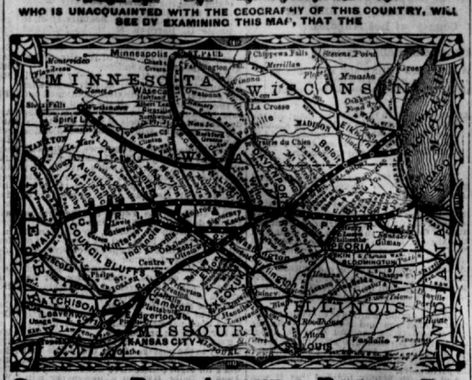

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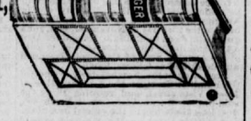

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For Eureka, Arcata and Hookton, every Wednesday.

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SOUTHERN ROUTES.

TIME TABLE FOR NOVEMBER:

STEAMERS.	COMING SOUTH. Leave San Francisco	COMING SOUTH. Arrive San Pedro	GOING NORTH. Leave San Pedro	GOING NORTH. Arrive San Francisco
Santa Rosa	Oct. 30	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nov. 5
Los Angeles	Nov. 2	" 4	" 5	" 8
Orizaba	" 5	" 7	" 9	" 11
Eureka	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
Santa Rosa	" 10	" 12	" 14	" 16
Los Angeles	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
Orizaba	" 15	" 17	" 19	" 21
Eureka	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
Santa Rosa	" 20	" 22	" 24	" 26
Los Angeles	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
Orizaba	" 25	" 27	" 29	Dec. 1
Eureka	" 27	" 29	" 30	" 3
Santa Rosa	" 30	Dec. 2	Dec. 4	" 6
Los Angeles	Dec. 2	" 4	" 5	" 8

Steamers Santa Rosa and Orizaba go through to San Diego, leaving San Pedro on the dates of their arrivals from San Francisco.

The Santa Rosa and Orizaba call at Santa Barbara and Port Harford (San Luis Obispo) only, on the route to and from San Francisco.

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Port Harford	10 50	8
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San Buenaventura	5	4
San Diego	5	4

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TIME SCHEDULE.

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Trains leave and are due to arrive at

LOS ANGELES

AS FOLLOWS:

LEAVE FOR	DESTINATION.	ARRIVE FROM.
2:00 P. M.	Colton	12:20 P. M
*2:30 P. M.	Colton	*10:00 A. M
15:30 P. M.	Colton	19:15 A. M.
2:00 P. M.	Deming and East. Express	12:20 P. M
5:15 P. M.	Deming and East. Emigrant	7:00 A. M
2:00 P. M.	El Paso and East	12:20 P. M.
12:50 P. M.	San Francisco and Sacramento. Express	1:35 P. M
8:30 A. M.	San Francisco and Sacramento. Emigrant	4:15 P. M
2:30 P. M.	Santa Ana and Anaheim	8:10 A. M
9:30 A. M.	Santa Monica	8:15 A. M
14:30 P. M.	Santa Monica	13:45 P. M.
*5:30 P. M.	Santa Monica	*8:30 P. M.
10:00 A. M.	Wilmington	2:30 P. M
4:00 P. M.	Wilmington	9:00 A. M.
10:00 A. M.	San Pedro	2:30 P. M
4:00 P. M.	San Pedro	9:00 A. M.

*Sundays excepted †Sundays only.

T. H. GOODMAN, General Passenger and Ticket Agent.
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Going north, will leave San Diego at 8:40 A. M., Riverside at 2:22, arriving at Colton at 2:47, P. M., and San Bernardino at 3:20 P. M., which is 20 minutes faster than San Francisco time. Passengers will save from ten (10) to sixty (60) cents by purchasing their tickets of the agent before entering the cars.

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J. M. FICTON, Superintendent, and Gen. Pass and Ticket Agt., National City, Cal. aug23