

RAVENEL (M.P.)

Trichorexis Nodosa x x x x





[Reprinted from THE MEDICAL NEWS, October 29, 1892.]

**TRICHOREXIS NODOSA—A PRELIMINARY
NOTE.**

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THE generally accepted etiology of this rare and interesting disease of the hair-shaft has caused it to be described in most text-books as an atrophy of the hair, and some form of malnutrition is put down as the first cause.

I have recently made an observation that tends to overthrow this belief, and points almost conclusively to a parasitic origin. For five years past I have had the opportunity of watching the clinical features of the disease in myself, and I have therefore naturally been more than usually interested in it, and during that time all of the commonly-advised remedies have been tried without benefit or effect.

About a month ago I discovered that many of the hairs in my shaving-brush—probably one-fourth of them—were affected with the disease. So soon as possible the brush was submitted to my teacher, Dr. Henry W. Stelwagon, the well-known authority on diseases of the skin, who, after careful examination, has pronounced the condition of the hairs in my brush identical with that seen in my beard and moustache.

Dr. John Guitéras, Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, kindly interested himself in the matter, and sent at once to Cuba for the shaving-brush and tooth-brush of a gentleman who, for some years, has been troubled with trichorexis nodosa. In both brushes the disease is typically illustrated. At the suggestion of Dr. Guitéras, my own tooth-brush has been examined by Dr. Stelwagon and myself, and in it also the same condition is well marked.

It is of interest to note that the shaving-brushes are made of entirely different hair, one being what is called in the shops "Badger" hair, the other some coarser hair, resembling hog bristles, while the tooth-brushes represent still another kind of hair, all probably infected from the users, as will be shown more fully in a subsequent paper.

Dr. Guitéras has begun an investigation of the subject, which will be reported in time, and which I trust will result in the clearing up of our knowledge of the etiology of the disease.

In the meantime, may I ask that any physicians having the disease themselves, or in the case of patients under their care, will examine the shaving and tooth-brushes, and report the results to me, of which suitable acknowledgment will be made. Should the brushes be found affected, I will be glad to have some of the hairs sent to me, with a brief history of the case.

Please address, in care of Dr. H. W. Stelwagon, 223 South Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia.



