

pigmentation is fairly regularly distributed over both cheeks, is of a walnut brown colour, with minute white areas, about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter, interspersed in the dark patches. The skin of the orbits is of a slightly darker tint, but just below the eye there is a free area, the upper moustache area is especially dark, the forehead is free and the mucosa unaffected. There is no abnormality of pigmentation elsewhere, and the man is otherwise perfectly healthy.

I am unable to offer any explanation of the causation in either of these very similar cases, and shall be glad of any suggestions.

Case of Trichotillomania.

By E. G. GRAHAM LITTLE, M.D.

THE patient is a little girl, aged now $4\frac{1}{2}$, the daughter of gentlefolk living in Surrey. There are two other children, aged 8 and 5, who are perfectly healthy and have shown no similar symptoms. There is no history of epilepsy, or night terrors, and the child is quite a merry little person, with no vicious habits. I saw her for the first time in August, 1919. At that date the scalp over the right parietal area was nearly wholly bald, very much like an X-ray alopecia. The hair follicles were intact, but the hair had been extracted from its root. The child could be observed to pull the hair herself, at all hours of the day, but not in her sleep or at night. She sleeps excellently, on an average twelve hours at night and two during the day. More recently she seems to have contracted another habit—namely, that of breaking the nail and sucking the fingers. I could detect no local irritation nor change in the scalp in the side affected, this being in all probability determined by proximity to the right hand. The habit seems to have been formed as early as the age of 2, and the hair grows quite normally after plucking, and is again attacked. I suggested the wearing of a muslin skull-cap, but probably this has been difficult to ensure. I have never seen nor read of a case developing at such an early age.

The PRESIDENT: Some years ago I had a patient in King's College Hospital whom we treated by a simple method: we had the hair mown down very short by the apparatus the hairdressers use, and we kept the hair to about $\frac{1}{8}$ in. for about two years, and during that time the habit was forgotten, and a cure resulted. I think this case can be cured in the same way in regard to the scalp. The nails constitute a different proposition.