

BEHRMAN

The Scalp
in Health and Disease

in HEALTH and DISEASE

By

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WITH 312 ILLUSTRATIONS



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IN
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TO
MY WIFE

FOREWORD

Friends will sometimes ask, "Aren't you afraid you will get too one-sided if you confine your interests entirely to dermatology?" The answer is that cutaneous medicine (and surely every other field of medicine as well) offers such diversified stimuli and problems that "custom cannot stale their infinite variety."

There are the economic problems and the public health ones, the administrative problems and the research ones, the problems of pedagogy and of training, the problems of genetics and those of environment, the psychological problems and the anatomical ones, the problems of statistics and mensuration and those of intuition and imagination, the problems of helping the individual sufferer and the problems of creating organizations and structures to help communities—and so on for a list well-nigh as diversified and as all-inclusive in its scope as the sum total of human interests and opportunities.

What has just been said of dermatology applies with almost equal force to that important segment of the specialty known as the hair. The hair is expensive—think of the millions spent on bleaching, tinting, and dyeing it; on curling, on waving, or on straightening it out; on cutting it and on shaving it off; on destroying it or on trying to make it grow; on making it lie flat or on making it stand up; to say nothing of the switches, transformations, chignons, and other supplements to fill out its deficits.

These are all concerns of the "healthy" hair, and one must add to them the enormous amount of care and money spent upon the hair when it is sick—so that it is quite likely that no other human structure can compare with the hair as an object of universal interest and as a cause of universal spending. The cost of upkeep of a nation's hair may perhaps rival that of a nation's army.

I cannot say that I agree with every word in this book of Dr. Howard Behrman's. As in every book of this scope, there are quite a few statements which allow for honest differences of opinion. But I can say that, as far as I know, this text is the most modern and encyclopedic work on the microcosm of the human hair. Where else will one find such up-to-date dissertations on the anatomy, chemistry and physiology of the hair, its endocrinology, anthropology and embryology, the diagnosis and treatment of its diseases, and the use and abuse of measures to alter its appearance? The present text goes into all these and many more matters in clear and useful fashion. It should therefore prove invaluable to students and physicians, dermatologists and nondermatologists alike—and also to many others who are interested in the problems of the hair and scalp.

Now that his book is completed, Dr. Behrman will assist in the development of a special "Clinic for the Scalp and Hair," in one of our hospitals, so that the host

of sufferers who require relief from troubles of the scalp and hair, and the many more who need advice about their care, can come and benefit from the knowledge Dr. Behrman has acquired in these particular fields.

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