III.—*Note on the Scalp of a Negro.*

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(Read before the ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, Jan. 1, 1873.)

PLATE VII.

BESIDES the dark colour which is seen in the skin of the Negro, and which is due to extra pigmentation of the deep layer of the epidermis, there are some peculiarities which I believe have not been noticed, or at all events are not generally known. These features may be seen in vertical sections of the scalp; but before describing them perhaps I may be excused for saying a word on the principal structures displayed in a similar section of the scalp of a European.

The free surface of the epidermis will be seen to be nearly level, whilst the deeper layers, or rete mucosum, will be raised by the papillæ, or conical elevations of the subjacent dermis. Bundles consisting of five or six hairs surrounded by their follicles will pursue a straight but oblique course through the greater part of the thickness of the dermis, each follicle having at its base the papilla upon which the hair is seated, and attached about a third of the way up on its under surface the bundle of involuntary muscular fibres which moves the hair. In the angle between this and the hair itself will be situated the sebaceous gland. Besides these, a few scattered sudoriparous glands may be noticed.

In the Negro the scalp is altogether thinner, and of course will show the pigmentation of the rete mucosum already alluded to. In addition to this familiar peculiarity the hairs and follicles present the following remarkable differences, *viz.* the portion of the hair and follicle imbedded in the skin is much longer, and is also remarkably curved, so that it commonly describes a half circle. The papilla at the base of the follicle consequently either lies horizontally or even becomes directed obliquely inwards towards the subjacent bone. In other respects there is no great difference, but perhaps the sebaceous gland is somewhat smaller.

It may be suggested that some of these conditions were produced by the mode of preparation, but this can hardly be the case, as the Negro and European scalps were prepared at the same time in the same way.

Proximal surface of Rosette (Podophora)
— Opaque. —

Ring (Podophora)
— transparent. —

Vertical Section of Negro's scalp.