

months. And, she adds, watch this space: she predicts that under-eye treatments will advance dramatically in the near future, citing a new and more aggressive treatment, Fractura (where 60 tiny needles deliver radio frequency into the skin, but with the trade-off that there is two or three days of redness and blistering afterwards), as an example.

Happily, though, dark circles are one of the few instances in beauty where extreme treatment isn't always the most effective. A good facial with plenty of massage is one of the best courses of action. The sought-after facialist Sarah Chapman has a tapping move around the orbital bone that she's happy to teach clients, so that they can do it "at their desks, watching TV, or – even better – when applying eye cream", and it's this regular mini-massage that will do most to keep blood supply moving and help shift dark shadows. While

facialists will happily target the eye area if that's your biggest concern, new eye-specific treatments are cropping up in mainstream salons, too: Carita has a new Sculpting Eye Lift facial, £65 (at Spa Illuminata); London's Beauty Works West has a lymphatic drainage treatment called High Eye-Q, £50; and Bliss and Clarins both now offer them: the Post-Party Perk-Up facial, £30, and Face & Eyes Refresher, £37, respectively.

Puffiness may or may not occur at the same time as dark circles, but eye creams tend to try to combat both, the rationale being that: a) both are most likely caused by sluggish circulation, so, by definition, treating one also

treats the other; and b) deflating puffy eyes will actually have a knock-on effect on the bluish tinge, too, because without the bags, light can be reflected back more easily. There are a few eye creams that do the de-puffing really well: Estée Lauder's Advanced Night Repair Eye, £30, has the advantage of a silky,

feather-light formulation and Crème de la Mer's The Eye Balm Intense, £125, comes with a silver-tipped applicator that gives an immediate cooling and deflating sensation. Rollerballs also combine manual deflating with brightening ingredients: Clinique's All About Eyes Serum De-Puffing Eye Massage, £20, and Garnier's Caffeine Eye Roll-On, £10, which is available in both clear and tinted varieties (the tinted one is

Britain's bestselling eye product).

And finally, if all else fails, there's always make-up. Dick Page avoids the concealer completely, favouring

Happily, extreme treatment isn't always the most effective for dark circles

a shimmering gold eyeshadow under the eye (Shiseido's B206, to be specific) to "bounce light off the face". Make-up artist Kay Montano emphasises the importance of covering up the two bluish dots in the inner corners of your eyes, not just the shadows underneath. "Use your middle fingers and get right into the corners. If you don't conceal those bits but cover up the circles below, you'll just draw attention to them," she says. And for days when the sleep deprivation is really bad? Create a diversion. Sunglasses, red lipstick and a winning smile. Had such things been at her disposal, Emily Brontë would doubtless have done the same. ■

Counter CULTURE THIS MONTH'S PRODUCT NEWS

POUR HOMME

If love is in the air, then beauty is never far behind and we wouldn't be averse to using any of these Valentine's gifts ourselves... **Vintage Shaving Company Trad Exfoliating Face Wash/Daily Cleansing Balm**, £10 – "green" beauty reaches grooming products via this naturally formulated brand. **Murdock Bright Leaf Scented Candle**, £35 – new from the über-cool traditional cut-throat shavers of Shoreditch, Soho and Mayfair. **Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer**, £27 – a light-yet-rich facelotion with a slight cooling effect, too.



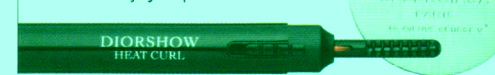
Spectrum GAMES

We're reaping the rewards of new strides in colour tech. **Aveda's** new Full Spectrum permanent hair-colour service now offers a bespoke colour for every client (Aveda.co.uk). **Armani** has melded four distinct hues for its new **Eyes to Kill** eyeshadows, £24.50, and the result is a butterfly-like iridescence. Finally, **Yves Saint Laurent** counter staff at **Selfridges** report that its lilac, pink and peach **Complexion Enhancers**, £29.50, have become the hidden gems of the range.



VOGUE LOVES

The first home fragrance from **Balenciaga**: a candle version of **L'Essence**, £48, which is distinctly more woody and mellow than the scent. **Dior's** new eyelash curler, £23 – beauty gadgets seldom look so chic. You may be reluctant to stray from neutrals, but thanks to **Bobbi Brown's** new palette, £39, your make-up bag can still enjoy a splash of colour.



AND IF ALL ELSE FAILS... THE BEST CONCEALERS

Laura Mercier Secret Concealer, £18.50

Clinique Airbrush Concealer, £16

Bobbi Brown Under Eye Concealer, £17

Benefit Boi-ing Concealer, £16.50

Soap & Glory Kick Ass Concealer, £10

Chanel Corrective Concealer, £26

Becca Compact Concealer, £30

By Terry Touche Veloutée, £33

Estée Lauder Doublewear Concealer, £19