

The INBETWEENERS

It's an age-old debate, that of nature versus science, but what if in skincare the answer lay somewhere in the middle, asks Jessica Diner

So here is the dilemma: you want skincare to be sensuous; full of wonderful ingredients that seem to have been freshly picked from the wild. You want it in nice, luxurious packaging. Yet you want it to deliver tangible results – fast. Thankfully there are a wealth of smart, natural products packed with high-tech advances that are bridging the gap

between nature and science.

Recent advances in biotechnology mean that powerful, botanical-based actives fused with the best that science has to offer now rival some of the most high-tech anti-ageing skincare brands. “Hard-working natural ingredients have come a long way,” says Kathy Phillips, a pioneer in the world of high-tech naturals when she launched This Works almost a decade ago. With the strapline “modern, natural beauty”, the brand’s ethos has never been more relevant: “The public are very demanding now. They want natural, but they want it to work and they absolutely won’t settle. I know that there is no point doing

an anti-ageing range without vitamin C, hyaluronic acid and retinol, which are all natural actives – so why not champion that?” The

range is also bringing luxury back into the natural-skincare market. “Natural-based skincare doesn’t have to be worthy,” she adds. Thank goodness for that.

Heaven by Deborah Mitchell, Biologique Recherche, Sisley and Liz Earle are just a few of the brands that are known for their cocktails of high-quality, plant-based extracts and lab-made ingredients. Sarah Chapman, facialist and creator of Skinesis Skincare, explains: “The combination of synthetic ingredients and natural actives is the best of both worlds. You get the performance of a product from a lab, with all the benefits of natural ingredients.”

And it’s feeding through into treatments, too. Sisley’s Black Rose facial features the oil and mask of the same name, which individually are so potent it was initially thought the treatment might be too stimulating. But their technology works in sync to enhance even the most sensitive skins. Facialist Abigail James worked with Liz Earle to create the Superskin Botanical Lift Facial. Combining cooling jade facial tools (to define the cheekbones), with the more high-tech Foreo sonic cleanser (for deep lymphatic drainage), the result is more radiant, firmer skin. “I wanted to combine the best that mechanical and natural technology had to offer,” explains Abigail. “You’re stimulating the skin on a deeper level, meaning it will accept ingredients better. It’s more an active facial that is telling your skin to wake up and pay attention.” Consider the message received: when it comes to choosing between nature and science, it’s OK to sit on the fence. ■



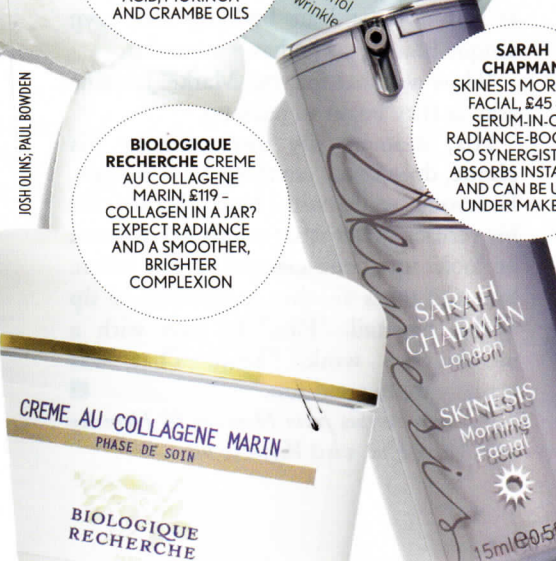
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ORANGE FLOWER CELL RENEWAL HYDROGEL, £40 – A TREATMENT GEL TONER WITH HYALURONIC ACID TO REJUVENATE AND HEAL SKIN TISSUE



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FACE OIL, £136 – WITH EXTRACTS OF CAMELLIA, AVOCADO, PLUM, ROSE, ALGAE AND HYALURONIC ACID, THIS IS A HIGH-POWERED ANTIOXIDANT



THIS WORKS NO WRINKLES EXTREME
MOISTURISER, £46 – PUMPED WITH SKIN FIXERS, NATURAL ACTIVES INCLUDING RETINOL, HYALURONIC ACID, MORINGA AND CRAMBE OILS



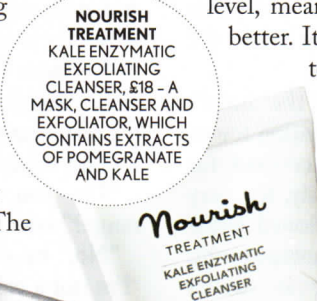
BIOLOGIQUE RECHERCHE
CREME AU COLLAGENE MARIN, £119 – COLLAGEN IN A JAR? EXPECT RADIANCE AND A SMOOTHER, BRIGHTER COMPLEXION



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LIZ EARLE SUPERSKIN
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JOSH OLINS; PAUL BOWDEN