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EDITORIAL.

The history of the discovery of phrenology furnishes ample demonstrations of its truth. Like all the other exact sciences, every portion of it was discovered, and brought to its present state of perfection, by an observation and a classification of facts. It originated with Dr. Gall, a celebrated physician of Vienna, who noticed, in the first place, a uniform connexion between full and prominent eyes and a talent for committing to memory. By this happy circumstance, he was led to look for other signs of intellect, in other portions of the head, and, accordingly, when he ascertained that a certain servant man was pre-eminent for his kindness and goodness, he took a cast of his head, and afterwards the casts of several other persons distinguished for the same trait of character. He then made a careful examination and comparison of these several casts, and found, that although they differed in every other respect, there was one protuberance, upon the upper part of the frontal portion of the head, common to them all.

The following is the method adopted by Dr Gall in the discovery of Combativeness. After collecting a promiscuous company of ordinary persons from the streets, he ascertained from them which were cowardly, and which courageous. He then placed the former by themselves, and the latter by themselves, and then proceeded to examine and compare the respective development of the different portions of heads until he ascertained that, notwithstanding the great diversity of shape in other parts, yet the heads of the courageous ones all displayed a fullness and thickness just behind the top of the ear, and that the heads of the cowardly were all thin and depressed in that particular region. This discovery, as well as that of benevolence, was then applied to innumerable other subjects, until its correctness was fully established. The same plan was afterwards pursued by Drs. Gall and Spurzheim, in the discovery of every other organ. They travelled through many countries in Europe, visiting the various hospitals, prisons and other places where extreme cases of character might be found, and examined the heads of all the remarkable persons within their reach, and thus, slowly but surely, confirmed the discovery and location of about thirty of the phrenological organs: and in this way they collected an amount of facts sufficient to fasten conviction upon every philosophical mind that will examine. Thus, in the discovery of phrenology, nothing was theorized; but every organ was discovered, and that by observing

that certain manifestations of the mind are always accompanied by particular manifestations of the brain. Phrenology rests its claims to respect and belief upon the same ground with the sciences of chemistry, mineralogy, botany, electricity, anatomy, and all the other sciences which are deduced from an observance and classification of natural facts.

The truth of phrenology is mainly supported by an appeal to the demonstrative evidence of physical facts. In this place an allusion can be made to only a few of the innumerable facts that have already been observed in support of phrenological science. Throughout the whole animal kingdom the same organs, more especially, and in the most striking manner, are they found to be manifested in that most important and wonderful of the animal species—man.

The human head generally presents a large development of the frontal and coronal portions of the brain; and, according to phrenology, the former of these portions is the seat of the intellectual, and the latter, of the moral organs; but, in the brains of the lower animals these portions are almost entirely wanting, as their heads manifest scarcely any traces of these organs; and does not this perfectly correspond with the mental qualities of these different classes of beings? The European races (including their descendants in America), possess a much larger endowment of these organs, and also of their corresponding faculties, than any other portion of the human species. Hence, their intellectual and moral superiority over all other races of men. Franklin, Locke, Bacon, Browne, Edwards, Webster, and Drs. Richards and Jas. Rush, and, indeed, all other deep and profound reasoners, all original and powerful thinkers without a solitary exception, possess really immense causality and comparison. Among all the heads examined and noticed by Mr. Fowler, he has never seen one with so very high, broad, and deep a forehead, in which the reasoning organs are developed in so extraordinary a manner, as in that of Daniel Webster; and where do we find his superior for displaying those faculties of mind which are imparted by these organs? Men of ordinary talent possess a respectable endowment of these organs. The Hindoos, American Indians, Chinese, and the African race, still less, but much more than the lower orders of animals. Idiots, scarcely any; and the lower order of animals none, or next to none at all.

The monkey possesses immense Philoprogenitiveness, Amativeness, and Individuality, and large secretiveness, combativeness, &c., and but very little language, causality, comparison, and moral organs: which perfectly corresponds with the character of the animal. The crow

has very large combativeness; the cat, the fox, the weasel, and all those animals which employ secretiveness, and destructiveness; the lion, the tiger, the leopard and the panther, or the feline species generally, the bear, the wolf, the fox, the hawk, the eagle, and all animals which destroy other animals and live upon their flesh, possess without an individual exception, large combativeness and immense destructiveness; while the deer, the calf, the sheep, the hen, the dove, the pigeon, and all those animals which eat no flesh, and are not savage in their nature, have small combativeness and very little destructiveness.

The dog has very large locality, and accordingly is able to pursue the deer for successive days through the deep forest, making innumerable turnings and windings, and yet, when he gives up the chase, can pursue a direct line to his home. The bear and the swine possess the same organ, and the same faculty, in a remarkable degree. The familiar fact of tying up a pig in a bag, and of transporting him in this condition, to a distance, is directly in point. It is well known that as soon as he is released, if he has the opportunity, he will draw a bee line for his home. Secretiveness is so extremely developed in the head of the cat and the fox, that the protuberance assumes the appearance of a little horn, while destructiveness, though large, comparatively retires; but in the dog and the bear, destructiveness is much larger than secretiveness; and this exactly corresponds with the character of each. In the gambols of the kitten, and the general disposition of the cat, we see a great deal more of secrecy and slyness than of destructiveness; but in the dog we see the disposition to bite and tear in places without the use of artifice or cunning. In the head of the monkey, the robin, the blue bird, the partridge, and other animals which show an extreme fondness for their young, as well as in females generally, the organ of philoprogenitiveness is very large, while in the male dog, which is a stranger to this feeling, no traces of it are to be found. The strength of this feeling in the female bear, which, as is well known, will fight so desperately for her cubs, corresponds exactly with the development of the organ in the skull of a bear now in Mr. Fowler's possession.

Facts which show the correspondence between the known characteristics of the various classes of animals and their phrenological developments, might be added to almost any extent, and their correctness demonstrated by Mr. Fowler's collection of skulls and animals.

"Life," says Emerson, "is a festival only to the wise."

*Wm. Swan by Dr. C. C. McKenney
Feb 10, 1854*