

science of phrenology. But Dr. Benedikt forseees this criticism, and makes the following distinctions: The fundamental idea of Gall, that the physical functions are localized in the brain, is in a certain degree undoubtedly correct, but the chief defect in Gall's theory is that the latter imagined complicated psychological processes to take place in a definite part of the brain. Murder, thieving, forgery, etc., are complicated psychological functions. There is not only often a defect of intellect which is unable to foresee the consequences of the deed to be perpetrated, but the factors of such acts are composed of motor and sensory impulses also. It is, therefore, erroneous to assume for murder, for instance, a definite typographical change in the brain, since that crime is the product of different qualitative and quantitative factors.

Another fundamental idea of Gall is that the skull is a model of the brain, and although it has been objected that there are in the skull many accidental prominences which have no counterparts in the brain, his fundamental idea is not shaken, inasmuch as "no scientific man may, even if he does not altogether agree with Gall, dispute the doctrine that the construction of the skull is remarkably proportionate to the whole anthropological organization in brutes and in man." Therefore, the most that the present state of science warrants us in saying is, that the anterior part of the brain is the seat of the life of ideas (*Vorstellungslieben*), the middle part the seat of psychological action in a motor sense, and the most posterior part the seat of sensations and feelings; and that any marked deviations in the general conformation of those parts may be attended by a corresponding amount of deviation in the conformation of the skull.—*Med. & Surg. Reporter*.

SMALL-POX, VACCINATION, RE-VACCINATION, &c.

A few extracts from an article by H. GIBBONS, M.D., in *Pacific Med. & Surg. Jour.*

In the year 1868, during the prevalence of a variolous epidemic which pursued nearly the same course as that of the present season, thus far, I published in this journal, a series of propositions relating to this subject, embodying the general experience of the profession, with some shading of my own personal experience. Under present circumstances I have thought proper to re-produce them, with such amendments as are authorized by six years of additional observation.