

## DICEPHALOUS MONSTER.

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THE specimen I am presenting this evening is an incomplete dicephalous. From the photograph you will be able to make out two perfectly formed faces placed side by side on a single head ; one face looking to the front and right, the other to the front and left side, the head slightly broader than that of an ordinary foetus at term. Body and limbs are well developed and normal. I am indebted to Dr. E. E. King for an excellent skiagraph which shows the spinal column dividing at about the seventh dorsal vertebra (here I might observe that the more complete the dicephalous the lower is the division of the column). Complete dicephalous monsters generally have the bifurcation in the sacral region. Dr. Anderson kindly assisted me in making a number of cross sections, which show the brain to be quite undeveloped as to convolutions. There appears to be three hemispheres ; two larger and one smaller. The section through the cervical region shows one trachea, one oesophagus, two spinal columns, and but one cord. On referring to the skiagraph you will see that one column is better developed than the other, the more fully developed one containing the cord. The other parts of the body are normal.

I might add that the mother, a multipara, with good previous history, gave birth to this child at full term without complications ; the child showed signs of life.

The causes of these double monsters are very interesting. The ancient Greeks, and later the Romans, long before the days of the microscope, described the foetus in reproduction as the semen or menses, and some both. As Aristotle, who says : "The blood of the menses is the marble, the semen is the sculptor, and the foetus is the statue." No idea of ova or spermatozoon was known, and they thought monsters were caused by some fault in one or other of these factors. They also had the idea that intercourse between humans and brutes caused monstrosities. This theory can be traced up to