

THE *MUSCULUS STERNALIS* AND ITS OCCURRENCE
IN (HUMAN) ANENCEPHALOUS MONSTERS. By
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AT the meeting of the British Association held last summer in Montreal, Professor D. J. Cunningham, of Dublin, read a paper on "The Value of Nerve-Supply in the Determination of Muscular Anomalies," in which he stated his belief that the *musculus sternalis* belonged to the pectoral group—in fact, was an aberrant portion of the *pectoralis major*, as recently suggested by Mr Abraham, of Dublin.¹ Professor Cunningham had traced the nerve-supply² of the *musculus sternalis* in five cases, and found that it came from the internal anterior thoracic nerve, a proof he thought that it belonged to the pectoral group. He also threw out the suggestion that this might possibly be a new inspiratory muscle antagonistic to the *triangularis sterni* appearing in man (for it acted when well developed as an elevator of the ribs), and stated his impression to be that it occurred more frequently in females, as costal inspiration is more pronounced in women than in men.

In the discussion which followed, both Dr G. E. Dobson and myself held that the *musculus sternalis* was most likely a remnant of the *panniculus carnosus*. Dr Dobson considered that the *sterno-cuticularis* muscle of the hedgehog closely corresponded to the *musculus sternalis*.

Professor Cunningham also mentioned in his paper that Mr Abraham had recently found the *musculus sternalis* to occur very commonly in anencephalous monsters, as he had seen it in six out of eleven specimens examined.

Since the meeting of the British Association I have examined six anencephalous monsters which are in the museum of the Medical School of McGill University, and have found in each one a well-marked example of the *musculus sternalis*. My recent dissections of these monsters has had the effect of changing

¹ *Trans. Acad. Medicine in Ireland*, vol. i., 1883.

² *Jour. Anat. and Phys.*, January 1884.