

which give to names their essential character and their stable aspect." If Kussmaul is right here, how senseless must be almost the entire prevailing system of present day cram education, which at the expense of unspeakable torture to the child and endless agony to the teacher, stuffs the poor little victim's brain with mere words, which have no adhesive property that may ensure their remembrance. "Further," says Kussmaul, "when we consider the constituents of language, we cannot fail to observe the enormous numerical disproportion that exists between substantives and verbs on the one side, and the whole of the grammatical elements on the other. It seems quite reasonable that the weakened memory should more readily evoke the recollection of those vocables of which the number is fewer and the use less variable (as articles, pronouns, prepositions, etc.), than that it should not among the multitude, hit upon the symbol appropriate to the designation of a given object or a determinate action."

We are all well aware of the fact that certain persons are possessed of special forms of memory, one for names of places or persons, another for dates, a third for poetical compositions, etc., etc., and these peculiar, or as we might say, automatic faculties, seem by no means to be necessarily conjoined with superior intellectual strength, for we meet with them sometimes in imbeciles, or even the semi-idiotic. Bastian, in explanation of this phenomenon of memory has recourse to the supposition of the possibility of a distinct anatomical seat for the sensitive elaboration of words used for designating persons, places and things. "It is," he says, "rational to suppose that these terms may be in more immediate relation with the *perceptive centres*; whilst the words for the other parts of language would be more intimately associated with the regions in which the *perceptive processes* are mixed up in the more complex and more intellectual operations. Hence, in general, the inaptitude to recall nouns and the errors fallen into in names of persons, places and things, would be troubles accompanying lesions or alterations in the *perceptive centres*; whilst, on the other hand, the extreme forms of amnesia must, most probably, be associated with marked trouble in the *intellective faculties*."

This explanation of Bastian is, of course, no more than a gratuitous hypothesis, but it is not devoid of fascinating plausibility.

A very interesting, though not always, as you, Mr. President, must not seldom have realized, a very pleasant fact, connected with aphasic patients, is that of their sudden and quite unexpected interjectional outbursts, long after their linguistic powers in other directions have seemed to be totally extinct. Falret has very truthfully noted the fact, that "an aphasic, under the influence of fright, anger, rage or any other strong emotion, will let fly an energetic expression, an interjection, an oath, which he articulates with great exactitude, and even a whole string of them in succession; but a little afterwards, when calm returns, it becomes impossible to him to articulate again the words which had sprung up, as if instinctively," in his devastated field of ideation. Might we not charitably infer that something analogous to this desert cerebral condition, exists in the brains of persons addicted to the senseless habit of profane swearing, who fill up with interjectional expletives, those linguistic vacancies which their intellectual poverty renders them incapable of otherwise fitly tenancing? Imperatively and utterly to suppress the profane objurgations of these persons would be nothing short of reducing them to amnesic aphasics. Pass through the odoriferous knots of the great and the little unwashed, who ornament our street corners on Sunday evenings, or hearken, reluctantly, to the silly twaddle of a string of our dandy promenaders, and then tell us how these poor creatures could contrive to escape profound mutism if deprived of their connecting linguistic links. As well might you expect that a bungling mason, without mortar or shaping-tools, could build a sound and sightly wall out of incongruous boulder-stones! Men of good sense and cultivated minds do not swear, because they have no room for oaths in their discourse. Be considerate, then, towards the poverty stricken bipeds. Deal with them as you have to deal with your young victims of chlorosis, who will eat mortar, tobacco, pipes and other nasty things, until you improve their blood and rectify their nervous aberrations. But here I should apologize, for I have fallen into an impertinent digression. Happily the age has passed away in which profanity of language was regarded as the stamp of gentlemanhood, and the members of our profession find that it does not in the least detract from their prestige to appear aphasic in the art of swearing.