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DEVIATIONS OF THE NASAL SEPTUM.*

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Although so little noted, this subject has long attracted the attention of the medical profession. Quelmaz,¹ in the eighteenth century, is said to have written the first monograph upon it. From time to time many able papers afterwards appeared. Latterly, however, there has been a decided interest in this direction, and during the last ten years an enormous amount of literature upon the nasal septum has been thrown upon the professional world. Besides general treatises upon the subject by a dozen standard authors upon "Diseases of the Nose and Throat," no fewer than twenty-five complete monographs upon "Deviations of the Nasal Septum" have been issued by European and American writers; and a score or more other able articles, by equally well-known men, have been written upon the anatomy, etiology, or treatment, of this exceedingly interesting and prevalent malformation.

Pathological Anatomy.—It is a well-known fact that deviations of the septum are among the most common of anatomical phenomena; still, the percentages given by different writers differ very materially.

² Zuckerkindl found deviations in 37.8 % of 370 cases.	
Bryson Delavan	50 % of his cases.
Allen	68 % of his cases.

M. Mackenzie	76.9 % of 2152 cases.
Jarvis	80 % of 100 cases.
Zedziak	83.5 % of 200 cases.
Simanousky	95 % of 974 cases.
Heyman	96 % of 250 cases.

While Sheck,³ one of the most prominent amongst Polish rhinologists, uses the following words: "It can be assumed that hardly a single individual has a perfectly straight nasal septum." Contrary to this, however, Zuckerkindl⁴ maintains that asymmetry does not occur prior to the age of seven years; a statement which is not borne out by other writers.

With reference to the influence which sex has upon the frequency of deviation, authorities are not agreed; the majority of physicians, however, believe that it occurs more frequently in the male sex than the female, the reason assigned being the greater exposure of the former to accidents.

Civilization appears to be a very important factor in the production of deviations; for invariably the septa of aboriginal races are more symmetrical than those of their civilized brethren. Among the latter, some affirm, the greater the culture the greater the tendency to asymmetry. Bryson Delavan⁵ believes that the Jews and Slavs have an idiosyncrasy in this direction; his statement being supported by Zedziak⁶ as well as by Simanousky's tables.

Deviations of the nasal septum occur most

*A paper read before the Ontario Medical Association, June 4, 1891.
 1. "Programme de narium earumque septi incurvatione." Lipsitz, 1750, p. 7.
 2. *Journal of Laryngology*, March, 1891, p. 86.

3. "Die Krankheiten der Mundhöhle, des Rachens und der Nase," 3rd edition, 1890, p. 240.
 4. "Anatomie der Nasenhöhle," 1882, p. 45.
 5. *New York Medical Journal*, 1887.
 6. *Journal of Laryngology*, March, 1891.