

Wanted: Brains to Dissect.

It may not be generally known that all over the civilized world there is a strong demand for brains that are a little above the average in quality; not intelligence, or intellect, or genius, but, literally, that part of the human organism which is contained within the skull and is known as the brain.

Scientists who devote themselves to the study of comparative anatomy have for the most part nothing better to dissect than the brains of paupers and lunatics. These, however, leave much to be desired, and it is to the interest of the human family that the brains of cultured and learned people should be placed at the disposal of those patient and laborious men who are engaged in the vastly important work of unraveling the secrets of the working of the mind.

But it must not be supposed that a certain number of such brains are not forthcoming. Comparatively speaking, there are few, but, still, more numerous than most people imagine. In the great majority of cases they are bequeathed by their respective owners. On one occasion Sir William Fowler, the famous authority on comparative anatomy, in addressing an audience of cultured men and women, spoke of the difficulties he and his fellow workers had to contend with in having little else than the brains of people of low intellect to dissect, and went so far as to appeal to the audience to help science in this matter in the only possible way. On the conclusion of his address several members of the audience, including a few ladies, promised to bequeath their brains to him, and, it is said, proved as good as their word. More than one man of great eminence has regarded it as something in the nature of a duty to do this in the interest of science. Prof. Goldwin Smith, for instance, some time ago formally willed his brain to Cornell University.

Some remarkable brains have been sold, not given. An Englishman who calls himself Datas has disposed of his to an American university for \$10,000. He is a man of little education, and for many years worked as a coal miner. But he has a marvellous memory, especially for dates, and is now earning a handsome income on the music-hall stage. Any member of the audience may ask him the date of some occurrence, and is answered instantly. It is considered that his brain must show some very unusual development, and there was not a little bidding to secure it after death.

It stands to reason that the brain of a man of intellect offers a much richer field for observation than the brain of a pauper or some other human derelict. The brains of great men vary very much; more, in fact, than do those of nonentities. It is found that men of encyclopedic mind have large and heavy brains—