

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN BODY.

THE head of a large institution for the deaf and dumb in Copenhagen has instituted a comparison of the height and weight of the children under his care, numbering one hundred and thirty, extending through three years. The children were measured once a day, and weighed four times a day. The result brought out some interesting facts. In September and October the children grew only a fifth of what they did in June and July. During the autumn and beginning of winter, the children accumulated in bulk, but the height was stationary. In the early summer the bulk remained nearly unchanged, but the height was increased. It seemed when the body grew in height there was rest from bulk, and when it increased in bulk the height remained stationary. A marked increase in weight was noticed during the warm season, the child increasing in height but often diminishing in weight during the cold weather.

Dr. Miller, surgeon to the West Riding Convict Prison, made similar experiments to those of Mr. Hanson, upon four thousand persons, extending through fourteen years. The laws of growth in adults seem to differ from those found by Mr. Hanson in children. Dr. Miller found the maximum increase of weight in adults was from April to August, and the minimum from September to March, the body becoming heavier in summer and lighter in winter.

Some very interesting facts have recently been brought out by the careful studies of physiologists upon the inequalities of growth in the different parts of the body. It is found that instead of both sides of the body being alike, the contrary is the rule. Dr. Garson found from the measurement of seventy skeletons, the lower limbs were equal in length in only seven cases, or ten per cent., the left limb being

more frequently longer than the right. Dr. Dwight says the clavicles in twenty-two cases examined by him was only equal in six cases, the left clavicle usually being the longest. Artists have noticed the fact that the two sides of the face are seldom alike. An interesting diagnostic fact is mentioned by Sir James Paget which will often be of service in treating cases of slight spinal curvature. He says, "Many examples of suspected slight curvature of the spine are only examples of the adjustment due to the lower limbs, and in every case they should be measured and compared, for the remedy may be supplied by boot soles of different thickness better than by spinal instruments. If, viewed from behind, the hands of the patient resting on the upper border of the iliac crests are in an exactly horizontal plane, a well formed spine will stand at a right angle on that plane."

It has been noticed that persons travelling at night without some known object to guide them, or lost in a fog or on the plains, where nothing can be seen but the same monotonous expanse of sky and plain, wander in a circle, coming back in a few hours or days to the starting point: and the explanation has been found in the inequalities of the lower limbs, the longer limb taking a longer step than the corresponding one would, unless there was some visible object to serve as a guide, cause a person to travel in a circle.

As it regards the upper extremities, the same irregularities are noticed as in the lower limbs, the right being usually the longer, and stronger, and more expert and delicate in manipulation. This, however, is to a certain extent the result of education, and the best surgeons and obstetricians so discipline the hands that they can use both with equal facility.—*New York Medical Times.*

IN some good articles in the *Fortnightly Review*, Dr. Roose develops the idea that the need of our age is not rest and stagnation, but healthful conditions for work, freedom from worry, suitable variety and a wise distribution of our time.

THE death rate among the rich in London is from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 per 1,000. Among the poor it is from 23 to $35\frac{1}{2}$ per 1,000. The average duration of life of the well-to-do in England is 55 years; among the artisan class at Lambeth it was $29\frac{1}{2}$ years.