

unite with the Sylvian fissure below, or the ascending frontal or ascending parietal sulci on either side. The Sylvian fissure does not join with any of the sulci above or below it.

Prof. Benedikt of Vienna has made a special study of the brains of criminals,* and believes that he has met with peculiarities sufficiently marked to warrant the following proposition: "*The brains of criminals exhibit a deviation from the normal type, and criminals are to be viewed as an anthropological variety of their species, at least amongst the cultured races.*" The two peculiarities on which he lays stress are (1st) the confluence of many of the primary fissures and (2nd) the existence of four horizontal frontal gyri. He proposes to establish a confluent fissure type of brain, and he illustrates its most important characteristic by saying, "that if we imagine the fissures to be water-courses, it might be said that a body floating in any one of them could enter almost all the others." This, of course, means the absence of numerous bridges of nerve matter which normally separate the fissures—defects, marking an inferior development of the brain. Between the normal type with isolated fissures and the type with confluent fissures there will naturally be transitions, but he calls attention to the number and variety of the connections in his series of the brains of 22 criminals as supporting the truth of his proposition. He states that the brains of individuals in the lower grades of society approach nearer to the 2nd type, and it is probable, though, as yet, full data are wanting, that the brains of the inferior races of men also conform more closely to this than to the type with isolated fissures. Let us see now how far he has been able to establish the truth of this view. Of 38 hemispheres from the 22 criminals the following were some of the most interesting points:—

I. The fissure of *Rolando* communicated with :

- (a) *fis. Syl.* completely in 18, incompletely in 6.
- (b) with *3rd* or *ascending frontal*, complete in 11, incomplete in 2.

* On the Brains of Criminals, Vienna, 1879. Translated by Dr. Fowler. (Wood & Co., New York, 1881. *Cent. f.d. med. Wissenschaften*, 1876, and No. 46, 1880.