

iliacs. But in the example under consideration we have the occurrence of such a remarkable phenomenon—for so it may be called—at the very commencement of the great arterial system. It is possible that others may have met with a similar instance, although as stated before none have been recorded.

Besides the desire of contributing something decidedly new to our biological knowledge, I have believed that the examples brought forward might stimulate others to work in a field of enquiry which, though well worked, still affords now and then something that has not been before witnessed; and a multiplication of valuable facts on the subject of the present paper cannot but prove eminently useful to science.

With regard to these peculiarities of the arteries of the aorta, can we draw any inferences of value explanatory of their occurrence, or do they possess any bearing upon the physical structure of the economy?

There is no explanation of their occurrence afforded, beyond the fact that such peculiarities as occur rarely in the human subject are common in some of the lower animals, to wit, the quadrumana; and therefore they merely point to a connecting link in the chain of progressive development in the animal creation. It has been asserted that the great arterial vessel known as the aorta gives off in many instances four great trunks in the Negro; but as it has been noticed probably as often in the white race, we are not justified *at present* in drawing any conclusions, that the black race are necessarily of an inferior type to their white brethren from an approach to the quadrumana in the arrangement of the aortic blood vessels, nor indeed am I aware that it is common to the black race.

Nor can we assume that these peculiarities exert any special influence over any part of the animal economy, unless that their co-existence in other parts of the body may give rise to morbid conditions demanding surgical interference.

This short paper with several diagrams, was brought before the biological section of the *British Association for the Advancement of Science* at the Nottingham meeting in August last, and I am induced to send it for publication in the *Canada Medical Journal*, inasmuch as the second and more remarkable variation described in the paper is preserved in the museum of the French School of Medicine at Montreal, marked B. C. 4, and where I trust it may still be seen.

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