



SPECIMENS OF SILHOUETTES OBTAINED BY LAVATER.

LAVATER'S APPARATUS FOR TAKING SILHOUETTES.

We reproduce, as a historical curiosity, an apparatus which was formerly much talked about, obtained a great success, and attracted the attention of savants and of physiologists, but which is entirely out of use at present.

Lavater, in his celebrated work on Physiognomy, describes it as an accurate and convenient machine for drawing silhouettes. The engraving represents the apparatus so well that it is not necessary to enter into a minute description of it.

"The shadow," says Lavater, "is projected upon a fine paper, well oiled and dried, and placed behind a piece of plate glass, supported in a frame attached to the back of the chair. Behind this glass the artist is seated; he holds the frame with one hand and draws with the other."

The proportions of a silhouette, on the authority of Lavater, must be judged principally from the length and breadth of the face. "A correct and well proportioned profile should be equal in breadth and height. A horizontal line drawn from the point of the nose to the back of the head (provided the head be erect) should not exceed in length a perpendicular line which extends from the top of the head to the junction of the chin and neck. All of the forms which deviate sensibly from this rule are so many anomalies."

In support of these observations Lavater gives a number of specimens of silhouettes, and insists upon the conclusions which he deduces from their study. We give five of these specimens. In No. 1 Lavater sees an upright soul, an even temper, taste and frankness; in No. 2 the contour of the nose carries the infallible



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