
Review

Reviewed Work(s): Introduction To Anthropology by T. Waitz and J. F. Collingwood

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along the arms, on the elbows, and in the armpits. The lower limbs were very œdematous, so that the presence of any tumours in this situation could not be ascertained. The swellings were subcutaneous, and were not adherent to the skin nor to subjacent parts. Some of these seemed to be united by fibro-cellular bands, as they were easily moved together. The skin over them was unaltered; they were of the size of haricot-beans, very hard, and presented no trace of fluctuation. It was thought that they were of fibro-plastic character.

Thirty-hours after the man's death, the tumours were examined by MM. Delore and Bertholus, and were recognised to be due to the presence of cysticerci. Several cysticerci were found in the subcutaneous tissue of the conjunctivæ. The muscles were pale and easily torn; all those of the trunk and limbs contained numerous cysticerci; in the diaphragm there was one nearly as large as an almond. It was estimated that the subcutaneous conjunctival tissue and the subaponeurotic and intermuscular tissue contained about 2,000 of these bodies. They occupied principally the points of insertion of the muscles; their longest diameter lay parallel with the fibres, which they separated without destroying them; they were also lodged in the intermuscular spaces. No cysticerci were contained in the bones. The head of the thigh-bone was broken outside the capsule, and the great trochanter was also detached. Union had not taken place. There were no cysticerci in the eyes; nor at the base of the tongue, where they are always present in measly pigs (up to the present time, only one case of cysticerci in the human tongue has been noticed; it is related by Rudolphi). The liver, spleen, and kidneys were quite healthy; the latter presented numerous cysts on their surface. The pancreas contained one cysticercus. The mesentery was literally crammed with them. The parotid glands contained several. Three or four were found in the sides of the larynx. There were sixteen on the surface and in the tissue of the lungs. One was placed superficially on the anterior wall of the heart. The intestines were carefully washed and examined; but no tæniæ nor worms of any kind were found. In the nervous centres, 111 cysticerci were found; viz., 22 in the membranes, 84 in the cerebrum, 4 in the cerebellum, and 1 in the medulla oblongata. None were present in the spinal cord. On the surface of the brain, a rather large number of cysticerci had formed a small cavity in the substance of the convolutions; others were seen through a thin layer of cerebral substance. The ventricles, choroid plexus, and optic thalami, contained a considerable number. The brain was soft and diffuent.

An examination of the parasites showed that the vesicles varied much in size, and that they contained scolices having a double range of hooklets varying from thirty to thirty-four in number.

Very little information could be obtained as to the antecedent history of Pierre Massot. As far as could be ascertained, he was a beggar, led a wandering life, and was frequently intoxicated. His food ordinarily consisted of bread, cheese, and pork. In the part of the country where he lived, measly pork is common; but no cases of tæniæ have been noticed there.

Cases where the muscles and organs have been generally occupied with cysticerci are very rare. M. Delore has met with only two such instances; one related by Werner, the other by Demarquay. In the latter case, most of the muscles contained cysticerci; but among the internal organs, the lungs alone. In a case of ununited fracture of the humerus, under the care of Dupuytren, where resection was performed, several hydatids were found in the fragments. The fracture was attributed to their presence, as the patient had broken his arm in throwing a stone with moderate force. (*Gazette Méd. de Paris*, 3 Octobre 1863.)

ETHERISATION FOLLOWED BY DEATH. At the meeting of the Imperial Society of Medicine in Lyons, on July 20, M. Chassagny communicated the case of a lady aged 40, to whom ether was administered previously to the removal of an urethral polypus and two sebaceous cystic tumours on the head. Thirty grammes of ether (rather less than an apothecary's ounce) were used; but the anæsthesia produced was incomplete, and the patient was aware that the operations were being performed. The administration of the anæsthetic was not pushed further, because the stage of excitement did not manifest itself, and because, on the contrary, general coldness, and slowness of the pulse, were present. On the completion of the operation, which occupied a quarter of an hour, vomiting set in; the coldness increased, and was accompanied by clammy sweats; and the patient had convulsions, attended with foaming at the mouth. The attack passed away in a few moments, but soon returned with equal intensity. After the fourth attack, the patient died. M. Chassagny considered that the patient had died of eclampsia induced by etherisation, which was thus the indirect cause of death. She had previously been subject to epileptic vertigo. (*Gaz. Méd. de Lyon*, 16 Octobre, 1863.)

NEW CURE FOR HYSTERIA. The *Presse Médicale Belge* relates a case of violent hysteria which was instantaneously checked by a singular mode of treatment. The patient was a prostitute, who seemed threatened with imminent asphyxia, and in whom orthopnœa was followed by an immobility which might have been mistaken for actual death. Professor Thiry, who was summoned to her assistance, was induced by a tremulous movement of the lids, combined with spasmodic action of the ocular muscles, to admit the presence of hysteria. He remarked that pressure exercised over the hypogastric region relieved the symptoms, which relapsed as soon as the pressure was removed. Under these circumstances, M. Thiry, conceiving that more energetic pressure was required, grasped with both hands the inferior part of the abdominal walls, and suddenly twisted them round; the patient uttered a slight scream, sighed deeply, and experienced immediate relief. This singular manipulation was continued for ten minutes, and at the expiration of this short period nought remained, but the sense of general *malaise* which invariably follows great convulsions of the system. (*Jour. de Méd.*)

Reviews and Notices.

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY. By Dr. T. WAITZ. Translated by J. F. COLLINGWOOD. Pp. 404. London: 1863.

A SOCIETY, called the Anthropological, was founded at the beginning of this year (1863); and, amongst other promises published in its programme, was this, that it intended to issue a series of standard works on anthropological science, and that the first of them would be the volume of Dr. WAITZ. This work was so chosen, because, in the opinion of the Council of the Society, no modern work contained so good an epitome of the subject referred to.

The science of anthropology, like this Society itself, is in its infancy; and, therefore, every systematic work on the subject must, at the present day, be very imperfect; but still it is well to be able to lay hand on a work which contains references to all the best authorities. The personal opinions of any author in this matter are only of secondary value. What is now required is a collection of authentic

facts, from which may ultimately, perhaps, be drawn true and grand conclusions concerning the nature of man. This is how the Council argue. The name of Dr. Waitz is probably not familiar to many of our readers; but he is well known in his own country as a candid, erudite collector of facts. His book shows him to be a man of immense research.

The First Part of the volume contains *The Physical Investigation of the Human Species*, discusses the nature of species, tells of the nature and extent of the physical agencies to which man is subjected (or to use the not very lucid language of the translator, "the mode and magnitude of the physical changes to which man is subject.") Here, also, are detailed the Chief Anatomical and Physiological Differences which distinguish Different Races; The Results of Intermixture of Different Types; and The Peculiarities of the Mongrels. In the fourth and fifth sections of the First Part, we have also a Review of the Principal Theories regarding the Unity of Mankind; and a chapter On the Classification of Mankind.

The Second Part of the work is an Investigation into the Psychological Character of Man. We have a chapter on The Specific Characters of Man; another on The Primitive State of Man; and one, The Various Degrees of Civilisation, and the Chief Conditions of its Development.

We need hardly say, that it is quite out of our power to give any detailed account of this volume. It is itself a volume of details. Its nature, character, and value, may be gleaned from the criticism bestowed upon it by the Anthropological Society, and by the fact of its being their first offering to their members. There can be no doubt that it is the best epitome of matters anthropological now contained in our language; and will be of great service to the student as a book of reference.

British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH, 1863.

MR. SYME ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

LAST week, the Edinburgh College of Surgeons held a very successful *conversazione*; the success having been promoted, in the main, by the announcement that Mr. Syme would then and there deliver himself of his views on medical education. Mr. Syme has every claim to a hearing on this score. He has been upwards of forty years a teacher of anatomy or surgery; and must, therefore, know pretty well what kind of food is best adapted to the mental digestion of the student, and for the manufacture of a useful practitioner of medicine.

Mr. Syme, during the last session of the Medical Council, proposed the following resolution, which was carried unanimously.

"That the Medical Council resolve to take into consideration, at the next meeting, the propriety of recommending a reduction in the number of courses of lec-

tures which the regulations of the various licensing boards at present render obligatory.

"That, with the view of facilitating the consideration of this subject, the General Council request to be favoured with the opinion of the bodies in Schedule A on the possibility and propriety of this before next meeting."

In consequence of these resolutions, the licensing bodies will be called upon to express their opinions on the subject of medical education; and Mr. Syme, therefore, thought the moment opportune for a few public remarks on the subject. These are his views.

Mr. Syme tells us that the period has arrived when it is necessary to relieve the student from the overwhelming burdens which now oppress him, or rather his memory. The approach of this period has been long anticipated by some teachers; for already, from England, Ireland, and Scotland, voices have been sent to the Council calling attention to the evils which result from the present insatiate system of overteaching.

Only compare the curriculum of thirty or forty years ago with that of the present days, and you at once see the nature of the impossible burthens laid upon the modern student. He has neither time for thought nor reflection. His whole day is mainly occupied in cramming his mind with impracticable details. "Chemistry, in my student-day," says Mr. Syme, "was a science of which any ordinary intelligence could embrace the details; now it requires the entire devotion of a man's life. Botany, again, was an agreeable recreation then; now it is an oppressive weight on the student's mind. In anatomy, moreover, the expansion of ideas is no less remarkable." In fact, all departments of medical study have so expanded that "the education of our profession has become an effort of memory, rather than a process of mental training—no time being left for observation or reflection."

No one can, we think, deny the truth of the statements so courageously, and we must say skilfully, stated by Mr. Syme. But how is the relief to come? Here lies the pinch. No man likes to be his own executioner; and yet it is evident that, if the student is to obtain the relief desired, some of our professors must submit to the partial or total immolation of their own pet scientific lambs. There is no use attempting to blink the matter. Professors—some of them, at all events—must moderate their pretensions, if the reform be carried out, painful as the self-sacrifice must be.

Mr. Syme tells us what, in his opinion, ought to be done. The curriculum and examinations of licensing bodies must be regulated by superior authority; and so also must the lectures of the individual professor. The shepherd requires looking after, as well as his flock. *Imprimis*, as regards details, what should be especially provided for is, that the student should be enabled to imbibe thoroughly