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LAWS REGULATING THE RESEMBLANCE OF PROGENY TO PARENTS.

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THERE is now to be described a series of facts, which are certainly among the most curious and interesting of those which appear to have escaped the notice of philosophical observers.

This is the more surprising, as it requires but little analytical power to detect them, as, when observed, they appear to be of the simplest description, and as the regularity of their sequence is such as to constitute apparently so many general laws.

These laws regard the mode in which the organization of parents affects that of children, or regulates the organs which each parent respectively bestows.

Among animals, the effects of such laws have been observed to take place, and they constitute the various cross breeds; but the laws themselves, on which these effects depend, have neither been defined, nor have they been applied to, nor observed to operate among, mankind.

It will be observed in the sequel, that these laws indicate pairs of organs, successively corresponding, one to the male and another to the female parent.

The general dependence, however, of all these correspondences upon one is so great, and the general sequence of these resemblances seems so certain, that they appear to tend to one great law, as will be seen in the sequel.

As on the size, form, and proportion of the various organs depend their functions, the importance of such laws is immense, whether we regard intermarriages and that immunity from mental or bodily disease, which, when well directed, they may insure, or the education of children in conformity with their faculties, or the employment of men in society.

Little reasoning, however, shall here be founded on these facts, because it might be premature; and such reasoning as is appended will assume no hypothetical data at the expense of truth, for we have seen, in the mystic doctrines of phrenology, the ease with which the assumption of a great number of insulated organs may be made deceptively to account for any habit of life.

If, then, one parent communicate the anterior part of the head, the other will be found to communicate the posterior part.

The parent giving the anterior part of the brain, appears also to give the upper middle part.

The parent giving the posterior part of the brain, appears also to give the lower middle part.

These include the very few great, yet simple organs, on which all mental phenomena depend ; and we have not here, as in phrenology, minute and mysterious, but great and easily explicable organs.

The form of the eye appears to accompany that of the forehead.

The form of the ear appears to accompany that of the back-head.

The form of the teeth and the tone of the voice appear generally to accompany the form of the forehead.

The form of the under lip appears generally to accompany that of the back-head.

The form of the face, considered generally, appears to accompany that of the forehead.

The form of the cerebel, or organ of volition, and the whole figure which that organ influences, appear to accompany that of the back-head, even to the fingers, toes, and nails.

Not merely the ear and under lip, but the appetites, the digestive, the respiratory, and glandular organs, including the structure of the skin, appear to accompany the back-head, or, I believe, it would be more accurate to say the lower middle part of the head, which accompanies the back-head.

As, in the face, the form of the teeth and all the osseous parts appears to accompany that of the forehead, while the form of the most muscular part, the under lip, accompanies that of the back-head ; it is not quite certain that, in the figure, the osseous parts do not accompany the forehead, while the muscular parts alone may accompany the back-head.

It hence appears, that the forehead, the upper middle part of the head, and the face, except the under lip, go together ; and that the back-head, the lower middle part of the head, the ear, the under lip, the general figure, even to the fingers, toes, and nails, as well as the digestive, respiratory, and secreting organs, including the skin, accompany each other.

In every case it will be found that, along with the forehead, &c., go the functions of sensation and observation, and along with the back-head the passions and volition. It is unnecessary to enter here into any theory of the mind, with which this fact is connected. Being a fact, it is better that it should stand alone, and depend for its verification on the further observations of every inquirer. It must, however, be borne in mind, as necessary to understanding the sequel.

A good drawing of the heads of Napoleon, Maria Louisa, and their son, in some measure illustrates these laws, as it shows the son to have the forehead and general face of the mother, but the under lip of the father, while Napoleon himself testifies as to his son having his " great head."

Every observer, however, has the power of verifying these facts in nature.

With this view, the following scheme of the apparently dependent organs may be drawn out in two columns, over one of which may be written the word " mother," and over the other the word " father."

A copy of this scheme should be used in examining each child, and the organs of the father or mother respectively, which the child does not possess, may be crossed out.

Name or initials of child.

MOTHER.	FATHER.	MOTHER.	FATHER.
Forehead	Forehead	Face	Face
Back-head	Back-head	Figure	Figure
Upper middle part	Upper middle part	Chest	Chest
Under middle part*	Under middle part	Limbs	Limbs
Eyes	Eyes	Fingers, toes, nails	Fingers, toes, nails
Ears	Ears	Appetites	Appetitos
Teeth	Teeth	Digestive system, &c.	Digestive system, &c.
Under lip	Under lip	Skin	Skin

A knowledge of these laws is of great importance in determining the parentage of a child.

Thousands of doubtful cases occur in consequence of the face presenting little resemblance to one of the parents, and from other causes which may really or seemingly corroborate this one.

These laws, however, show that the lineaments of the other parent will always be discovered in the figure, &c.

Here it must be observed, that the doubts arising from this want of resemblance in the face, would much more frequently occur were it not that, along with the form of the back-head, which the other parent imparts, go the common appetites, sympathies, and passions, which bind them together as insensibly as surely.

This explains why the parent is generally more attached to the child which is least resembled in face.

The importance of these laws in the guidance of education is not less obvious ; for it is evident that they not only indicate the capacity of the child, but corroborate this by all the parent's own experience, whence he will naturally seek eagerly to profit in the person of his child.

A knowledge of these laws, in the case of all intermarriages, is evidently of great importance, though a very narrow and mistaken interest will lead to their neglect.

A moment's reflection will show, that the proportion which exists between these parts in the heads of parents, must be nearly decisive of the character of their progeny ; and that if these parts be feeble in both parents, they must also be so in the offspring. Hence the perpetually increasing degeneracy of aristocratic families, in whom none of the intellectual organs are improved and strengthened by incessant action, but, on the contrary, dwindle away, as do all bodily organs, by entire inactivity.

An extreme case will render the importance of these laws more obvious and impressive. Suppose mental incapacity or aberration to exist in a slight degree, in consequence of defect or excess of any of the great portions of the brain alluded to ; and on this, it will generally be found to depend.

The most prejudiced will not dispute, that in this case, if marriage be inevitable, its victim should have the very opposite structure.

A little reflection on the same law of descent will show that a son can resemble his father only in half his organization. It similarly follows, that on this son intermarrying, he may not communicate to the grandson the share which he has in his father's, but that which he has in his mother's, conformation.

* That is the temple and over the ear.

Thus, one half the father's organization must be lost in the son, and the other half may disappear in the grandson, so that the latter shall not have the slightest degree of the organization, nor the slightest resemblance to his grandfather.

Hence it follows, that a man may not have the slightest interest, physical or moral, in his second or third generation.

On how slender a basis, then, are founded the claims of hereditary descent ; the certainty that the son must have a very partial resemblance to the father, that the grandson may have none, and that every probability is against subsequent generations having the slightest.

But if all this be the case, it must be obvious of what vast importance are the facts previously announced.

It is remarkable that, in the propagation of resemblance from parents to progeny, the mental organs should be divided ; one parent giving one portion, namely, those of sensation and observation—and the other parent giving the other portion, namely, those of passion and volition, while the intermediate middle part is also divided. Thus the mental faculties are equally derived from both parents ; but, as indicated by the preceding laws, the parent giving passion and volition, gives apparently the vital, and part, at least, of the locomotive functions, which chiefly depend on passion and volition.

A little reflection explains the cause of this peculiar division of the mental system, as well as this dependence of the vital and locomotive systems.

It is evident, that in all the voluntary acts of animals the mental system must take the lead ; and that, in the act of generation, they are functions of that system—passion and volition, which must excite the locomotive to fulfil the purposes of the vital system. Hence, in generation, the apparent predominance of the mental system.

It is also evident, that in all voluntary acts in which two sexes are engaged, two mental systems are involved ; and as the first portion of the mental system, sensation and observation, is relatively passive or dependent on impressions, and the last portion, passion and volition, relatively active and exciting to locomotion, it is probable that, in generation, one sex will always be relatively passive and the other relatively active. Hence the progeny will receive, from one parent, the organization on which, in the mental system, sensation and observation depend, and, from the other, that on which passion and volition depend ; for the very term *propagation* implies the communication of similar organs and functions, and, therefore, of the most energetic and characteristic ones.

Thus the communication of mind and of its most distinguishing or peculiar characteristics to progeny, depends on mind and the relative predominance of its two great divisions in parents.

There remains one other great distinction to account for, namely, that of sex ; and, as this is as closely connected with the vital, as the preceding distinction is with the mental system, it will be found to depend on the vital system—the relative energy of its sexual portion and abundance of its secretion in the male or female parent.

Thus, as the internal organization and external character of the mental system in progeny depend on the relative, though variable, predominance

of the portions of the mental system in parents ; so the sexual distinction of the vital system depends on the relative energy of the sexual portion of the vital system in parents.

It is obviously because these two fundamental distinctions of mind and sex thus depend upon totally different causes, that they may be variously combined and intermixed in progeny.

Hence arise the four simplest combinations of character in the children of one family : the paternal organs of sensation and observation with the male sex—the maternal organs of sensation and observation with the female sex ; the paternal organs of passion, volition, &c. with the male sex—the maternal organs of passion, volition, &c. with the female sex.

When, moreover, it is considered how much the combination of functions are causes of modification, as in the case of different sex with similar features, it will easily be seen to what infinite variety of aspect, in the same family, this must lead.

Thus briefly sketched, the author submits this doctrine to the test of public observation. He has no fear that it will not be applied to it. The subject is too interesting, and its results too important, not to ensure this.

It is not, however, pretended that these laws are traced with perfect accuracy, or that they are the whole of those which regulate the resemblance of progeny to parents ; for there appear occasional exceptions to them, especially as to the teeth, ears, nails, and some subordinate parts, as well as various modifications of all of them, which are at present unaccountable to the writer. To this, indeed, the great variety of countenance in the same family may, in a great measure, be due. Some important principles, therefore, may still, perhaps, escape observation.

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HISTORY OF AN AUTUMNAL FEVER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN the Autumn of 1827 a disease made its appearance in the village in which I resided, exhibiting the following symptoms.

It commenced with shivering, often with coldness, which in some cases amounted to an ague ; in others, not less severe, it seemed to be only a severe trembling, without any complaint of coldness. Pain in the abdomen came on early after the attack, and occurred in distinct paroxysms, with intervals of considerable ease. In some cases the pain extended over the whole abdomen ; more commonly it was referred to either the hypogastric or iliac region. The pulse was small and frequent ; the surface in most cases cold, inclined to purple ; and the impression left, by pressure of the finger on the face or hands, would remain visible for some seconds. The feet were very generally cold at first, and were with difficulty kept warm in subsequent stages of the disease. The tongue exhibited a dark or yellow fur, and was often dry in the centre. Vomiting was almost a universal symptom ; the matter ejected being green or brown, rarely yellow at first. In some cases the tenderness of the abdomen was considerable ; in others, not. In all