

Mascagni (*Bulletin de Med.*, 1811, p. 176) describes an animal which was to appearance a bull, having *all the male organs*, and, besides these, *ovaria, uterus, and vagina*, but no external female parts, the vagina opening into the urinary passage or urethra.

Sir E. Home describes hermaphrodites of other animals.

In the above-cited cases (and I have met with no others of black cattle) we find a union of sex in different degrees. Hence I was led to suspect a similar organization in your heifer. How far my preconceptions were erroneous will appear in the sequel. Unfortunately your man had severed and mangled the external parts before I arrived, but I carefully removed the internal organs, and examined them leisurely at home.

As far as I could determine, your heifer had the external organs very small; teats and udder distinct; the former like those of an ox. The external characters appeared to be those of a fine, well-formed heifer; but of this you can better judge than I could after the animal was dead. She was very fat, the intestines loaded with it. The *clitoris* was very small; the *vagina* terminated, just beyond where the urinary passage entered it, in a *cul de sac*, or blind pouch: from the end of this pouch the *uterus* could be traced, but it was imperforate, and resembled rather a ligamentous cord extending to the bifurcation of the *cornua*. These processes, or horns, were hollow for a short distance, and at their termination were situated small *ovaria*. No trace of testicles or their vessels, nor of *vesiculæ seminales*, could be discovered. This animal, therefore,

could be no other than an imperfect female, in which the uterus had never been developed, and was, of course, incapable of fecundation.

I had written thus far before your letter was received, and am obliged to you for informing me that a parallel case of such an anomaly has occurred to Dr. Mitchell, whose observations I shall be happy to see.

I have delayed sending this letter, from a desire to re-examine the internal organs with a medical friend who has lately assisted in dissecting an hermaphrodite ape in Philadelphia. The result of our investigations was precisely as above stated. The only organs of the male which we could expect to find, were testicles or *vesiculæ seminales*, neither of which could be discovered on the most careful inspection.

I have not given the minutiae of the dissection, but merely stated what appeared most important: and am, with great respect,

Your humble servant,

T. WM. HARRIS.

Milton, Dec. 20, 1826.

#### HISTORY OF A CASE

*Which seems to favor the Views of the Phrenologists.*

By CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

SOME time ago, I was called to Mrs. McB., of this city. I found her in bed, suffering severely from pain in that part of the head which corresponds to the locality of the organ of language; viz., behind and above the orbital plates. Besides this pain, which, though intense in degree, was confined to the region above indicated, the lady had no complaint;

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal as published by

The New England Journal of Medicine. Downloaded from nejm.org at University of Arizona on July 20, 2016.

For personal use only. No other uses without permission. From the NEJM Archive. Copyright © 2010 Massachusetts Medical Society.

her general health was not particularly bad, nor could she assign any sufficient cause for the present attack. By the free application of leeches as near as possible over the seat of the difficulty, and a liberal dose of calomel, she was relieved in a few hours.

The only fact remarkable in this case was, that, during its continuance, Mrs. McB. lost, in a very great measure, her command of words. She could not call up in her mind the name of a phial, for example, a bureau, or any other of the most familiar articles.

There was no inability in the vocal organs; the defect seemed to be in the power of calling up

words in the mind. This opinion was confirmed the following day, when, the facility of expressing herself having returned, she assured me that, during her suffering, her ideas in general were clear, and she was conscious of no defect in the organs of utterance, but that she found great difficulty in thinking of the proper names of the persons and things about her.

Whether the two prominent points in this history are to be regarded as cause and effect, or merely as a singular coincidence, I pretend not to say; but they certainly appear to favor some of the views of a too zealous but much abused class of philosophers.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1830.

#### LIABILITY OF PHYSICIANS TO PERFORM MILITARY DUTY.

It was our intention to have discussed this subject at large; but having been restrained from so doing by considerations it is unnecessary to state, we merely offer a single remark respecting the present law as applied to the Faculty.

The reader is aware that an act passed the Massachusetts Legislature at its last session, making certain alterations and improvements in the militia system of the Commonwealth. By this act, all persons over thirty years of age are exempted from active duty, by merely carrying or sending their arms to the place of company inspection on the first Tuesday in May annually. By the old law, the same condition, with the additional duty of attending elections

of company officers, and paying the sum of two dollars into the town treasury, exempted from active duty "all licensed physicians and surgeons," although under the age of thirty. It would seem then, that, by the existing law, such licensed physicians and surgeons, between the age of eighteen and thirty inclusive, are liable to be enrolled for military duty, and must perform the same, or pay the fines affixed by law for neglect of such duty;—they are not now, as heretofore, *conditional exempts*.

To the printed copy of the act passed in March last is appended the following note:—

*Note.* By the provisions of the 1st and 6th sections of the foregoing law, Deputy Sheriffs and Coroners, Physicians and Surgeons, and all officers who have heretofore held, or may hereafter hold commissions in this