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ANATOMICAL NOMENCLATURE.

In this and in the preceding number considerable space is devoted to a somewhat elaborate discussion of the general subject of Anatomical Nomenclature, accompanied by practical suggestions with regard to the brain.

When we consider that, as stated by Professor Wilder, the brain presents about 150 parts or regions which are visible to the unaided eye, that these parts are more and more frequently mentioned in connection with the progressive sciences of Anatomy, Zoology, Physiology and Psychology, and yet that many of them have received from two to a dozen, more or less, ponderous names, there would seem to be no question as to the desirability of some improvement upon the existing terminology.

The author of this article has undertaken to amend the matter by selecting the shortest or otherwise most appropriate one of the several names by which some parts are known, or by abbreviating descriptive phrases either by discarding all but the most significant word, or converting qualifying adjectives into prefixes, or, in a few cases, mostly of parts observed by himself, by proposing new terms altogether.

The fact is, as every original investigator is aware, all scientific nomenclature is more or less provisional, and must be constantly modified to suit the additions to knowledge and the clearing-up of ideas. The author has given a few instances of the employment of new terms by modern writers, and many more might have been adduced. Marsh uses "postpubis," Huxley "epipubes, pylangium, synangium, intraovular;" Foster employs—if he did not originate—"hemisection and aspychical;" "orad" is used by Thacher in place of *cephalad*, while "dorsad" occurs in recent writings of Mivart, and in Huxley's latest utterance, the paper on "Evolution," parts of which were reprinted in this journal.

Among all the arguments in favor of some modification of the existing nomenclature, the strongest—to the mind of the unprejudiced layman—is, perhaps, the very one which will least commend itself to the professional anatomist: namely, that the ease and comfort of those now living should be held of little moment as compared with any advantage which the change may confer upon the "vastly more numerous anatomical workers of the future."

Those who object to the strictly technical construction of the proposed vocabulary should try to realize what would be the outcome of a total disuse of all technical terms, and the substitution therefor of the vernacular words which are current among the people of the various countries in which anatomy is cultivated. Ancient Babylon would have a parallel in modern Science, and there would result confusion, misunderstanding, contention, and finally apathy and ignorance. Professor Wilder has evidently prepared his article in the hope of eliciting criticism from the working-anatomists of all parts of the world, and not with a view to the hasty praise or dissent of English-speakers alone.

The pages of "SCIENCE" are open to the fullest and freest discussion of the whole subject.

A PARTIAL REVISION OF ANATOMICAL NOMENCLATURE, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THAT OF THE BRAIN.*

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II.

GENERAL NAMES OF ORGANS, AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS.

For ease of reference these words are arranged in the alphabetical order of their abbreviations.

A.—Area. Ar.—Arteria. Ath.—Arthron, joint, articulation. B.—Bulbus. C.—Cœlia; ventricle of the brain. Cd.—Condylus. Co.—Columna. Cn.—Canalis. Cp.—Corpus. Crn.—Corona. Cr.—Crus. Cs.—Commissura. Ctl.—Cartilago. Dg.—Digitus, finger or thumb. Dm.—Dimidium; half. Dt.—Dactylus; toe, digitus pedis. Dv.—Divisio. F.—Fissura. Fm.—Foramen. Fs.—Fossa. Fsc.—Fascia. Gl.—Glandula. G.—Gyrus; convolution. L.—Lobus. Lc.—Locus. Lg.—Ligamentum. Ll.—Lobulus. Ln.—Linea. M.—Musculus. Mb.—Membrana. Math.—Mesarthron; segment. N.—Nervus. O.—Os. P.—Portio. Pl.—Plexus. R.—Recessus. Rg.—Regio. Rm.—Ramus. Rx.—Radix; root. S.—Sinus. Sb.—Substantia. Sl.—Sulcus. Sp.—Spina. Spt.—Septum. T.—Tuber. Tu.—Tuberositas. Tbl.—Tuberculum. Tr.—Tractus. V.—Vena.

LIST OF NAMES OF PARTS OR FEATURES OF THE BRAIN.

This list includes between 150 and 160 names. Unless otherwise stated they apply to the brains of Man and the Domestic Cat. Most of the names refer to more

* Continued from No. 38, page 126, March 19, 1881.