

connection with our professional institutions, and generally so accurately descriptive, that no other term seems necessary. Furthermore, many so-called academies fall so far short of Plato's model that the words college and university seem all that are required to-day. Few philosophers will disagree with President Lowell's statement that America has failed to contribute its share to the world's thought.

But no one of these institutions should be without at least one philosopher apiece, for of such is the family of goats.

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PACHYOSTOSIS

THE term *Pachyostosis* to denote a benign type of osteohypertrophy, especially in aquatic animals, was first clearly discussed by O. Abel in his "Paleobiologie." It is interesting to note the animated discussion of the possible phylogenetic significance of this condition at the meeting of the German Paleontological Society at Tübingen in August of last year. The subject arose following the reading of Nopsca's paper¹ on the osteology of a Cretaceous snake. Baron Nopsca proposes the unusual term *Arrostie* for the condition of Pachyostosis, but spoils it by including in his classification such diverse pathological conditions as Osteosclerosis, Acromegaly and later some one proposed to include in it the condition known as Osteoporosis. This conception seems to me to be quite wrong, and I wish to add this word to the discussion.

It seems to me that the new term *Arrostie* is unnecessary and misleading. It implies a combination of conditions which does not exist. Pachyostosis, as I understand it, does not involve either infections or other pathological results, but is to be regarded as an adaptation in vertebrates to an aquatic habitat. The hypertrophy is a condition largely of the ribs and vertebrae, and while it may sometimes be due to the presence of heavy dorsal armor, yet more frequently it seems to me the thickening of the bones is an adaptation, permitting the animal to submerge more readily and to remain under the surface. Osteosclerosis is not an accompaniment of the pachyostosis in the few histological examinations of pachyostotic bones I have made. The unorganized deposition of calcium salts in callus following fracture, and in areas of intensely rapid growth stimulated by infection constitute a condition of osteosclerosis far removed from any interpretation of pachyostosis. I have recently noted in a Pleistocene tiger a condition in the pelvis

resembling in its great and uniform hypertrophy of both rami the heaviness seen in Pachyostosis. This was due, clearly, to the intense infection the results of which are evident in the sacrum, where the most posterior sacral element is greatly exaggerated in size.

It would seem unwise to include under the same classification such diverse hypertrophies as acromegaly, osteosclerosis and the absorptive process of osteoporosis. In fact, osteoporosis accompanies a number of pathological conditions, though the term has been somewhat restricted in Paleopathology to a condition described in the human skull in which the hypertrophy is accompanied by a riddling of the inner skull table. Pachyostosis is also to be distinguished from many types of osteitis deformans, such as Paget's disease, Leontiasis and other hypertrophies which are due either to infections, disturbances in the endocrine organs, faulty nutrition or other causes.

It is even to be doubted if the thickening of the bones in aquatic animals is to be properly regarded as a phase of pathology in any sense, unless we give the widest latitude to our definition of disease. I should like to suggest, therefore, that we differentiate carefully between results of adaptation and pathological results. Pachyostosis is a benign form of hypertrophy and has no relation, in my opinion, to other hypertrophies of a pathological nature.

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QUOTATIONS

CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND

THE minister of health has answered the doctors in terms of arithmetic. He conceives that, in the final issue, an actuarial basis is that on which the capitation fee for panel practice, in company with all salaries and wages, must rest. In this view he has, without doubt, the full support of the friendly societies, whose members constitute the working population of the country. These societies, in their attitude to the medical profession, have discovered themselves as economists of the old school. A man's value, they suggest, is the amount which his services can command in the open market. This doctrine, when applied to the members of the friendly societies themselves, has not, it must be allowed, always worn, in their eyes, the aspect of reasonableness which it possesses when applied to doctors. Indeed it has frequently been assailed with bitterness as the creed of a rapacious *bourgeoisie* eager to exploit the helplessness of "wage slaves." Unhappily, it is impossible to have it both ways: what is "sauce" for the doctors must be "sauce"

¹ F. Baron Nopsca: "Ueber eine neue Kreideschlange aus Dalmatien." *Paleontologische Zeitschrift*, Bd. V, Heft 3, p. 258. 1923.