

The Germination of Bony Fibres, after any Peccant Matter has destroy'd some of them, and relaxt others, is no more surprizing, than the Fleſhy Inequalities we commonly meet with in hollow Ulcers, of the ſofter Parts, as in the Membranes, Muſcles, Glands, &c. Beſides the Inequalities on the Surfaces of Bones thus affected, and their being very much diſtended, I have frequently ſeen divers large holes in them; (beſides thoſe for the Tranſit of the Blood-Veſſels) ſome of which have paſt quite through them: The like has been obſerved in both Tables of the Skull, as M. Dupre has taken notice, where part of the Bone has been diſſolved into an *Ichorous* Matter, which ſometimes has happened, and the External Teguments not been injured; of both theſe Caſes I have mentioned Examples in the 93d Table, and in my Introduction to the Anatomy of Humane Bodies lately published.

VII. *An Anatomical Account of a Child's Head, Born without a Brain in October laſt, 1698. By Monſ. Buſſiere.*

A French Woman living at *Dung-hill*, of a good Complexion, and in perfect Health during all the time of her being with Child, was then brought to Bed of a Boy, as big and tall as a Child can be in that Age, well ſhap'd in his Body, and Limbs very ſound, without the leaſt mark of Corruption, except that his Eyes did look as if they had been placed at the top of the Forehead; the Skull was unequal, the ſkin whereof,

whereof, though full of Hair, was a little redder than the rest of the Body.

The Midwife said, the Child came alive out of the *Uterus*; but tho' we cannot trust such Report, yet, 'tis certain, the Mother assureth, that she felt him stirring very often, but chiefly an Hour before she was taken ill for her Delivery, he was so troublesome to her by his Motion, that she could find no ease and quiet, but by her Husbands keeping his Hands fast upon her Belly, who affirmeth he felt plainly the Child's motions; and indeed the good Condition of this Child's Body, is methinks, sufficient enough to prove, that he was alive in the Belly of his Mother.

I was sent for to open this Child's Head, and here is what was found in it.

The Skin which did cover the Skull being taken off, the *Coronalis-bone* did appear lying flat upon the *Sphenoïdes-bone*, which was the Cause the Eyes did look, as if they had been at the top of the Forehead,

The *Squammosa* part of the Temporal Bones was wanting, there being but the *Os Petrosum*, which was in its natural place, and in which the Organs of the sense of hearing were in the ordinary Order.

There was no Parietal Bones, nor any thing equivalent, which likely was the Cause that the Coronal Bone, was set upon the Sphenoïdes.

Of the Occipital Bone, there was but the Basis which joineth to the Sphenoïdes, in the middle whereof was the great hole, through which the *Medulla oblongata* commonly passeth, all the upper part of this Bone being wanting, without any mark of having been corroded or gnawn, the edges of which were very smooth.

All the upper part of the Bones of the Skull being wanting ; the Skin had no other support but its basis , which was the reason why the top of the Head was very unequal and rough.

No Brain at all was found, nor any mark in the whole extent of the Skull, that there had been any, there being no space left between the Basis of the Skull and the Skin to contain it ; there was no *Dura mater* neither, the Bones being covered only with a very thin Membrane.

Neither the *Carotides*, nor the *Vertebrale* Arteries did penetrate the Skull, but by small Twigs, spread in the thin Membrane.

I did take off the Three upper *Vertebra's* of the Neck ; before I could find the *Medulla Spinalis*, the beginning of it being under the Fourth *Vertebra*, like a small stump wrap'd up in the *Dura mater* ; the *Medulla* was very sound, and not bigger than it is in other Bodies of that Age ; all the Nerves which parted from it were in their Natural Order.

The Eyes were well shap'd, and all the Parts belonging to them, every one of their Muscles were furnished with the ordinary Nerves, the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th pair, and the Optick were in their natural Situation.

All these Nerves did terminate themselves in the holes of the Skull, through which they commonly pass, they did reach no further, nor had any Communication with any other.

All the Parts of the Face were natural, with their Muscles and Nerves ; the Tongue was very fresh, and doubtless had performed the Deglutition to make the Child swallow the *Colliquamentum*, of which there was a good quantity in his Stomach.

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The *Larinx*, and all the parts of the Throat were as the rest of the Body, in a good and natural Condition as can be.

I leave to others to explain how this Child could live, and move so long, without Brain.

I keep the Bones of that Skull in my House, where any Body may have a view of it, to satisfy their Curiosity, when they please.

VIII. *Part of a Letter from Monsr. Geoffroy, F. R. S.*

Dated Paris, March 7. 1699. N. S. to Dr. Sloane, giving an Account of the New Regulations of the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Paris.

I Shall here give you an Account of the great Splendour that the *Academie des Sciences* has Received by the Regulations, Incouragement, and Orders, Monsr. *L'abbe Bignon* has obtained to it from the King. That *Academy* is now composed of Ten honorary *Academicians*, which are chosen Learned and Eminent Gentlemen; of Eight Strangers associates, which are distinguished by their Learning; Twenty Pensioners Fellows, Twenty Eleves, and Twelve French Associates; out of the honorary *Academicians*, two are Elected every Year, one for President, the other for Vice-President; only Twenty Pensioners have every Year 1500 French Livres; and after the Death of one Pensioner, the Academy will propose to the King Three *Persons* Associates, or Eleves, or sometimes others; and his Majesty will call one of the Three for Pensioner.

Here is the Catalogue of the *Academicians*, the Names of honorary and Strangers Associates, who are disposed by order of Reception; but the others are distributed into Classes, into which the Academy is divided.

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