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FIRST GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

SHEFFIELD

PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

Held in the Assembly Rooms, Sheffield,

DURING

SESSION 1842-3;

WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE YEAR, RULES,
LIST OF MEMBERS, &c.

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"RES NON VERBA QUÆSO."—*Dr. Gall.*  
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SHEFFIELD:
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REPORT, &c.

WHEN the objects to be gained, and the methods pursued, by a Phrenological Society, are taken into consideration, the first general Report of one newly established in a populous district, may well be designated a Report of the Progress of Truth.

In presenting their first Report, your Committee feel it necessary briefly to allude to the circumstances which previously occurred, and ultimately gave rise to the formation of this Society.

In Sheffield, Phrenology had made no stand worthy of its immense importance. The believers in its truth were unknown to each other, and hence the impossibility of ascertaining their united influence. The establishment of a Society of this nature was latently felt to be a desideratum in this locality.

Phrenology was first introduced to the public of Sheffield by the late Dr. JOHN OVEREND ; and in the year 1829, a course of lectures was delivered by Dr. SPURZHEIM, the distinguished coadjutor of the illustrious GALL. The interest taken in it at the time seems to have been neither great nor lasting ; for, down to the period when the town was visited by an itinerant quack, the subject remained in nearly a quiescent state. It was in the defence of truth, and to counteract the bad effects produced by this individual's visit, that a few persons, unconnected, except

by a common regard for the science of Phrenology, entered into arrangements for inviting the Rev. D. G. GYDER, A.M., of Glasgow, to deliver a course of lectures, preparatory to the formation of a Society, if circumstances should warrant it. The lectures succeeded beyond their most sanguine expectations. So altered, indeed, was the state of public feeling, that the very people who, a few years ago, received the great master himself with coldness and neglect, rushed in crowds to hear the same truths from the lips of an humble disciple. The result wished for, followed. A common centre, where the lovers of the science could meet, state facts, weigh evidence, and canvass opinions, became a matter of enquiry. In this way the Society had its origin.

Its leading objects are, to investigate and spread abroad the *facts* and the *system of Phrenology*. To effect this, various meetings have been regularly held, and public and private lectures delivered. At the weekly meetings, papers were read on the different organs of the mind, calling forth a profitable and often an important discussion. The lectures being either on subjects of passing interest, or of fundamental importance, were open to the members and their friends, or to the public at large, when the occasion required. These means, with the circulation of charts, books, journals, &c., amongst the members, and conversational discussions on knotty and disputed points, have, in the opinion of your Committee, greatly contributed to clearness of conception, and tended not a little to awaken an abiding interest in the principles of the New Philosophy.

The constitution of this Society avoids one of the chief causes of failure in Phrenological Societies generally, viz., exclusiveness. To the medical profession have these Societies been mostly confined. Useful and appropriate as the study of the science may be to that

branch of the community, still such a course must be diametrically opposed to an extended utility. The Sheffield Phrenological Society is open to all who are anxious in the pursuit of physiologico-mental truth, whether the professional man, the merchant, or the artizan. Its principles are, however, antagonist to the conceits of those who, in the face of facts, will, at all risks, tenaciously and doggedly support antiquated notions or instilled prejudices, because believed in, to a certain extent, by the profession of which they may happen to be members. Opinions imbedded in prejudice, or crusted over with conceits, are valueless, as well in the lights of science as of common sense. Non-professional men at present compose the greater part of the members; but an increased support from the medical, legal, and clerical professions, is amongst the desiderata; and your Committee would hail their membership as a token for good.

Upon a review of the whole, the establishment of a Phrenological Society in Sheffield must be regarded as a great, and your Committee hesitate not to say, a successful experiment. Commencing, as it did, immediately after the buffooneries of a quack,—in a town, too, where SPURZHEIM had met with neglect,—aided by few in the higher walks of life,—and in the midst of a deeply distressed district,—its progress so far must afford ample satisfaction to the most incredulous mind. The members, as a body, have, during the session, kept closely to the Society's leading principle—the evolution of facts by induction. Eager after truth, they could not pass by without notice topics not strictly within the domains of a tentative philosophy: in every case, however, the attention given had always a proportionate relation to the importance of the subject.

With regard to the future prospects of the Society, high hopes may be entertained. Success is said to be a

stimulus to exertion. Your Committee have succeeded far beyond their incipient hopes, and an increased activity will doubtless be the result. From the past, they gather experience for the future, and *that future* will be just what the industry, spirit, and talent of the members *will* to make it.

Cheering as the public aspect of the Society may be, your Committee feel convinced, that nothing will benefit the members so much, as a rigid adherence to that course, which originally laid the foundations of the science—careful observation. From observation did the science spring ; by observation hath it been carried on ; and by observation alone can it ever approximate perfection. To a want of continuous observation, Mr. GEO. COMBE, in a lecture to the people of America, ascribes the downfall of so many Societies.

Your Committee, therefore, in conclusion, say to every member:—

OBSERVE MUCH : RECORD OFTEN : GENERALISE LITTLE.

PROCEEDINGS DURING THE SESSION.

THE FOLLOWING LECTURES HAVE BEEN GIVEN :

- Introductory Lecture, on the Fundamental Principles of Phrenology—
by CORDEN THOMPSON, Esq., M.D., the President.
- Mesmero-Phrenology—by Mr. CARSTAIRS.
- Phrenology applied to Educational Pursuits—by the Rev. D. G. GOYDER, A.M.
- On the Crania of the North American Indians—by Mr. CATLIN.
- Anatomy of the Brain—by Mr. CARSTAIRS.
- On the Harmony existing between Mesmero-Phrenology and the System of Gall—by Mr. S. T. HALL.
- On the Theory of Animal Resemblances—by the Rev. D. G. GOYDER, A.M.

AT THE THURSDAY EVENING MEETINGS, THE FOLLOWING PAPERS HAVE BEEN READ :

- On Amativeness—by Mr. BARTRAM.
- On Philoprogenitiveness—by Mr. WILKINSON.
- Concentrativeness—by Mr. WILSON (on which subject there were three nights' discussion.)
- Adhesiveness—by Mr. W. C. CORSAN.
- Combativeness—by Mr. STOCKS.
- Destructiveness—by Mr. TURNER.
- Alimentiveness—by Mr. FEATHERSTONE.
- Constructiveness—by Mr. WILKINSON.
- Secretiveness and Acquisitiveness—by Mr. DEWSNAP.
- Self-Esteem and Love of Approbation—by Mr. DERBY.
- Cautiousness—by Mr. W. C. CORSAN.
- Strictures on Phrenology—by Mr. COOPER.

These Essays have occasionally been interspersed with readings from the Phrenological Journal, Almanac, &c., with discussion on the contents of the same; experiments in Mesmerism, Manipulation of Heads, deciding upon the Characters of Individuals of whom the Skull alone remained, &c.

The number of Members at present is 80,—an increase of about 20 since the commencement. The casts, masks, &c., number about 150; viz., 47 heads, 45 masks, 52 skulls, and 1 brain; several of which have been bought during the session. The books and periodicals possessed and taken in are—Sydney Smith's System of Phrenology, Rev. D. G. Goyder's Essay on Acquisitiveness, Phrenological Journals, Phreno-Magnet, Goyder's Almanac, Dr. Engledue's Address, Charts, &c. &c.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Of the Society, for the year ending with the First Session, held during
the first week in April, 1843.

DR.	£. s. d.	CR.	£. s. d.
To balance in hand from	} 7 9 11	By Disbursements	20 8 3
Mr. Goyder's lectures		Cash in hand*	6 0 8
To receipts of the past	} 18 19 0		
year			
	£26 8 11		£26 8 11

* The Treasurer having kindly lent to the Society a collection of busts, casts, &c., the Committee are anxious for them to become the property of the Society. Dr. Thompson, with his usual liberality, has given £5 towards the purchase. Donations from the members, in aid of the purchase fund, will be gladly received by the Financial Secretary.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

RULE I. That this Society shall be called THE SHEFFIELD PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY, and shall have for its objects, the advancement of Phrenological Science, the diffusion of an accurate knowledge of its principles, and the promotion of a general intercourse between this and other similar institutions.

II. That every person admitted a member shall subscribe five shillings per annum, to be paid half-yearly; viz., during the first weeks of October and March.

III. That the Society shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding, and Honorary members; and the business transacted at its ordinary meetings shall be, the reading of papers, the discussion of questions, or other relevant transactions.

IV. Honorary members shall consist of two classes: first, those who may be elected to the privilege by a majority of the members present at the ordinary meetings of the Society, for some signal service to the Society, or to the science of Phrenology; second, such as may aid the Society by contributions of half a guinea, or upwards, annually, with or without taking any personal part in its transactions. And Corresponding members shall consist of persons residing six or more miles out of the town, who may favour the Society with literary contributions relative to the science, and shall be exempt from any pecuniary charge.

V. That the office-bearers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, an Honorary and Financial Secretary, a Treasurer, and twelve members as a Council, (five of whom shall form a quorum,) who shall hold office for one year only, but subject to re-election at the expiration of that time. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall take the chair.

VI. That the ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Wednesday in every month, from October to March inclusive. The chair to be taken at half-past eight o'clock precisely.

VII. That the Financial Secretary shall record in a minute-book the proceedings of the Society, and shall have all reports and communications to the Society filed, and noted in an index for reference. The Honorary Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society.

VIII. That an annual meeting of the Society shall be held at the close of the session, during the first week in April, when office-bearers shall be chosen, and arrangements made for carrying out the general business of the Society. The Financial Secretary shall lay a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Society before this meeting.

IX. That all elections shall take place by ballot.

X. That the rules of the Society shall not be subject to alteration or revision, except at the annual meeting of the Society, and that notice of any proposed alteration or revision shall be given at the monthly meeting previous to the annual meeting.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

PRESIDENT.

CORDEN THOMPSON, Esq., M.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mr. JEHOIDA RHODES.

TREASURER.

Mr. HENRY ATKIN.

HONORARY SECRETARY.—Mr. SAMUEL EADON, M.A.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. JOHN DERBY.

COUNCIL.

BARTRAM, W.	RHODES, J.
CARSON, J.	ROPER, R.
CORSAN, W. C.	STOCKS, W.
DEWSNAP, C.	TURNER, H.
ELLIS, J.	WYNN, A.
MABSON, H.	WILKINSON, C.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

<p>Atkin, Henry Adair, J. Allinson, George Allott, William Arnold, John</p> <p>Bartram, William Belcher, Henry Bottomley, Samuel Butterworth, Edwin Blurton, John Bywater, George Booth, John</p> <p>Carr, John (surgeon) Carson, John Carson, W. C. Corsan, Mr. Carlisle, Charles Chadburn, Alfred Cooper, Henry</p> <p>Dalton, George Dewsnap, Charles Dewsnap, Enos Dewsnap, Wilfred Derby, John</p> <p>Eadon, Samuel, M.A. Eadon, W. H. Edgill, W. N. Ellis, John Ellis, Henry</p> <p>Featherstone, Thomas</p> <p>Gregory, John Gray, William</p> <p>Hutton, W. C. Horsefield, Henry Hall, Spencer T. Habershon, Henry Hunter, Michael Hewitt, Mr. Heath, Anthony</p> <p>Jones, F. Jones, Henry</p>	<p>Knowles, W. T. Knowles, George</p> <p>Liddell, Edward Learoyde, William</p> <p>Marriott, George Mabson, Henry M'Turk, Andrew Mitchell, Isaac</p> <p>New, Stephen Newbould, Edwin</p> <p>Rhodes, Jehoida Ridgway, Edward Rhodes, John Rhodes, Thomas Rhodes, William Roberts, John Richie, — Ritchie, Alexander Roper, Robert (surgeon)</p> <p>Simmonite, J. J. Scott, Frederick Stocks, William Slinn, Henry Smith, R. C. Swift, J.</p> <p>Thompson, Corden, M.D. Taylor J. (surgeon) Turner, Henry</p> <p>Wynn, Alfred Wilkinson, Charles Williams, John Wynn, E. Wilson, Joseph Wynn, John Wilkinson, Joseph Wood, Hugh (surgeon) Walker, H. P. Wright, William Woodward, George West, Joseph</p>
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HONORARY MEMBERS.

Rev. D. G. Goyder, M.A., } Lecturers on
 Mr. T. D. Craig, } Phrenology.

THE MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The ordinary meetings of the members, to which no strangers will be admitted, take place on the first Wednesday of every month, when essays are read by the members, followed by discussion. On these occasions, each member may introduce a lady.

THE PUBLIC LECTURES.

During the session, six lectures will be delivered, at the Assembly Rooms, before the members and the public generally, on Phrenology or its applications.

PRACTICAL PHRENOLOGY.

Any member of the Society may have the opinion of a SELECT MANIPULATORY COUNCIL, on his organization, by giving information to the Secretaries, when arrangements will be made forthwith; and any *voluntary* donation arising therefrom to go towards the PURCHASE FUND.

TO THE MEMBERS.

As the proceedings of the Society will always open with a public lecture, the first ordinary meeting of the members, for the reading of essays, &c., will not take place till the second Wednesday in October.

