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REMARKS
ON AN
HIPPOCRATIC MACROCEPHALUS,
BY
J. F. BLUMENBACH¹.

THE lecture delivered by the Chief Physician-Royal, Blumenbach, in the sitting of the Royal Society, of the 3rd August, consisted of a *Spicilegium observationum de generis humani varietate nativa*, a subject, that since his inaugural dissertation which appeared under this title nearly sixty years ago, the author has always taken pleasure in working at. It was only something on the national characteristics of the three chief races among the five, into which he had thought it most according to nature to divide mankind. Therefore, first of the Caucasian stem, or middle race; and of its two extremes, which are secondly, the Ethiopian, and thirdly, the Mongolian.

Of the first race we have but one skull, but that of the very greatest interest. An old Hippocratic macrocephalus from the Black Sea, exactly answering to the description given by the father of medicine in his golden treatise *On air, water, and soil*. Blumenbach owed this present for his rich collection of national skulls to the kindness of the excellent and much travelled physician of Augsburg, Dr Stephan, who, at the very time when the Russian Government had the ancient funeral mounds of the kings of the Bosphorus opened, which exist on the water-shed of the steppe hills in the vicinity of Kertch (the Panticapæum of the ancients) happened to be there, and obtained the skull in

¹ *Götting. gelehrte Anzeig.* 177 st. B. II. s. 1761.

question. This exactly resembles in shape the others which were found there with it. On account of the great age of the burial place it was very rotten and fragile. This was also the case with the other skulls, which were laid by him previously before the Royal Society, of old Greeks, Germans, Cimbrians, Tschudis, &c. which have been described in their *Transactions*. The striking characteristic of the Tauric Macrocephalus, of which we are now speaking, displays itself in a high, but not much vaulted forehead: the parietal bones on the other hand being exceedingly high, quite macrocephalic. The sagittal suture, as well as the other two principal sutures of the occiput were quite obliterated.

Secondly, of the Ethiopian race, which indeed at the first glance contrasts so forcibly with the others that one can easily understand the exclamation of the naturalist Pliny: "Who would have believed in an Ethiopian before he had seen him?" Almost exactly at the same time as that ancient long-headed skull Blumenbach received from his old friend and pupil, Kaufmann, the court physician of Hanover, something of just as great importance to him for his collection, although of quite another kind. It was the fresh clean head of a negro boy from Congo, who had died unfortunately in his fifteenth year, and who might be considered as the most perfect ideal of this race of man. This gave the author of the lecture an opportunity of passing a critical review upon many of the to a great extent groundless assertions on the bodily peculiarities of the negro, which he refuted by the exhibition of preparations. Amongst these were some embryos, and this gave him an opportunity of saying something also on the third principal race,

The Mongolian: not, indeed, upon the character of their skulls, of which Blumenbach, through the kindness of the never-to-be-forgotten Baron von Asch, possesses a most instructive series; but only to contrast with those unborn negroes the fetus of a female Calmuck three months old, already possessed of the expressive national physiognomy, displaying, namely, that striking oblique direction of the bifurcation of the eyelids towards the root of the nose.

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