

THE COLLECTION OF THE BOSTON PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A RETROSPECT.

by

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One of my earliest recollections of the Harvard Medical School, in its old home at the head of North Grove Street, near the Massachusetts General Hospital, was the formidable array of plaster casts of the heads of all sorts and conditions of men which decorated the railing surrounding the gallery of the Anatomical Museum. Here was a frieze of a startling realistic appearance depicting all the vagaries of Nature's human offspring. The busts of the intellectual Cicero and Caesar and the desk mask of the great Napoleon stood literally cheek by jowl with those of degenerated and celebrated criminals. It was not a haphazard collection of material but a series of casts of the heads of well-known individuals, carefully selected and duly catalogued by the Boston Phrenological Society many years before.

A few of its specimens are to be found on exhibition on the shelves of the Museum today, ^{while} ~~and~~ the theories they were intended to illustrate have long since been set aside in the advance of our knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

Yet the work of Gall and his pupil Spurzheim, over a century ago, exerted a strong influence upon the researches of the period - a period of rapid advance in medical science, and left a mark behind which time has not succeeded in obliterating.

It is partly for the purpose of preserving one of the old traditions of the Harvard Medical School, and for reviewing an almost forgotten medical theory, that this brief account of the history of the Collection and its relation to the Medical School has been prepared.

JOHN GASPAR SPURZHEIM.

American Reg. 4 1832
Recd. Nov. 1832

He was born December 31, 1776, at Longvick, Germany, near the city of Treves on the Moselle River. He was educated at the university of Treves, and when in 1799 that part of Germany was invaded by the French, he went to Vienna to study medicine. Here he came in contact with one with whom his name was destined to be perpetually associated, Dr. F. J. Gall—who had graduated from the medical department of the University in 1785 — a pioneer in the study of the anatomy and physiology of the brain. He was, at the time of his pupil's arrival in Vienna, promulgating his theory of the seats of the intellectual faculties in the brain, in which he had established a list of twenty different localities. His lectures, based as they had been on anatomical study and extensive clinical experience in hospitals and asylums, had aroused great interest, not only in the medical world, but amongst the laity at large ~~also~~.

It must be remembered that at that period the time-honored views, of the classical authors had placed the soul or the "sentient zone" in the heart and the stomach, as well as in the pineal gland and the cerebellum. His radical views caused a great sensation at the time and

being regarded as dangerous to religion, led finally to Gaul's departure from Vienna in 1805. Spurzheim, as a faithful disciple would, accompanied the master to expound the new doctrine to the world.

There seems to be little doubt that Gall, and Spurzheim also, were good anatomists and had made a careful study of the structure of the brain, and had obtained an insight into the distribution of nerve fibres to the different regions, which was distinctly in advance of the time.

In studying at the same time the mental peculiarities of individuals, both normal and insane, Gall sought to harmonize the physiology of the brain with its anatomical structure. In grouping about for a solution of the problem he gradually came to the conclusion that the external peculiarities of the head corresponded more or less accurately with intellectual endowments and normal qualities. ^{Therefore} ~~Therefore~~, the seat of these various functions of the brain being sapped out, a means was ~~thus~~ obtained of determining the qualities which go to make up the character of an individual, by the impress ~~of~~ which, the development of the different organs of the brain had left upon its outer covering. Considering the state of knowledge at that time it is not surprising that the work of a pioneer should have confused, what we now describe as "cerebral localization" with the science of psychology.

Inspired, nevertheless with great confidence in the correctness of their theories, these two observers started out to convince a sceptical world, and planned a lecture tour through continental Europe, finally reaching Paris where Gall established himself as a practitioner.

Like two philosophers of an earlier age, they travelled from place to place preaching their doctrine and obtaining the wherewithal for future labors, by courses of lectures, which doubtless served as a basis for extensive clinical study and practice.

Dr. Spurzheim, after remaining in Paris several years with his chief, subsequently extended the field of his labors to Great Britain. Here he became, both in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, the central point of a heated controversy. Dr. John Gordon of Edinburgh being one of the prominent opponents of his views, and Doctors George and Andrew Combe his enthusiastic supporters. Failing to obtain promotion in England to professorial honors, he returned to Paris with the intention of remaining there permanently with his French wife. But failing to obtain scientific support there and following the death of his wife he yielded to pressing invitations from America to cross the Atlantic, and in 1832 he sailed for the United States, arriving in New York on August 4th.

According to the Hon. Nahum Capen¹ his literary representative and friend, his career began under favorable auspices and attracted the attention of prominent citizens in the various towns and cities he visited. But it was destined to be a short one, for he fell ill and died of what appears to have been typhoid fever in Boston, on November, 1832. He lies buried at Mt. Auburn, almost the first occupant of that cemetery, which had recently been founded by some of Boston's most prominent physicians.

Banks
At the time of his arrival in this country, the work of Gall and Spurzheim was familiar to all scientists of the day, and their fame survived another generation, for I well remember the frequent quotations of the writings of these worthies in the lectures and literature of my student days, and two quarto volumes in my possession, testify to a quality of work well up to, if not in advance of the standards of the period²

¹Nahum Capen was born at Canton, Mass., April 1, 1804. Postmaster of Boston 1857-1861; publisher (Marsh Capen & Lyons); died in Boston Jan. 4, 1886

²Anatomie et Physiologie du System nerveux en general et du Cerveau en particulier. Par F. J. Gall et G. Spurzheim, Paris, 1810 (in 2 volumes with numerous plates)

The science of phrenology, as expounded by them, had met with much opposition, but it also had many enthusiastic supporters, and the value of much of their scientific work was generally recognized. Spurzheim was moreover a man of attractive personality, if we may judge from his portrait by Fisher, and there is ample testimony to his engaging manners and unassuming demeanor.

He was received with much enthusiasm by many of the advanced thinkers of the day, whose names were so prominent a feature of New England life of that period. The medical professions appear to have been courteous and open-minded, but cautious in its endorsement of the new doctrine of phrenology. This feature of the work of Gall and Spurzheim seems to have thrown into obscurity much of the painstaking and scientific labor of these observers, which really entitles them to a place among the pioneers in research, which led up to the modern science of psychology and cerebral localization.

Spurzheim's short period of activity in America left him little more than an opportunity for an introduction to the medical profession in this country, but his fame had gone before him and his faithful adherents, of whom Mr. Nahum Capen publisher and publicist, was a conspicuous member, united to found the Phrenological Society with a view to promoting the new doctrines.

The Boston Phrenological Society was founded on the evening of the 17th of November, 1832, the day of Spurzheim's funeral. A meeting was held for this purpose in the building of Marsh, Capen & Lyons, at which the Reverend Dr. Tuckerman presided, and Nahum Capen was chosen secretary. The first officers of the society elected December 31, 1832, were the following, Rev. John Pierpont, ^{President} Dr. Jona. Barber, Vice President, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Corresponding Secretary, Nahum Capen, Recording Secretary, S. P. Clark, Treasurer.

In a letter dated November 16, 1832, from Nathaniel I. Bowditch to his brother Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, then a medical student in Paris, some account is given of the death and funeral of Spurzheim. Among those who attended a meeting at his residence to make arrangements for the funeral, were Hon. Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard College and the President of the American Academy.

Nathaniel Bowditch, the writer of this letter says; "Every one of us feels a pride and pleasure to be able to express in any way his regard and esteem for the deceased, and his regret for his sudden and melancholy death. But a few months since Dr. S. came among us, a stranger known only by reputation, yet in this short interval he made more cordial friends in Boston than many could have done in a whole life.

The course of lectures in Boston, was attended by a more

brilliant and select company than ever before listened here to any other lecturer upon any subject whatever,-- Without perhaps in any instance inspiring a full belief in his favorite theory, ~~He~~ was admitted to possess remarkable talents for lecturing. The acute and accurate observation of nature, his philanthropy and his moral philosophy were admired by all. "

(Publication of the Colonial Society Vol. 10, p. 77)

(Communication by Mr. H. H. Edes).

The Society continued in activity for about ten years and numbered one hundred and forty-four members. During its period of existence the society duly observed the birthday of Spurzheim, ^{being also} the day of its ^{own} anniversary, by suitable services. On these occasions, formal addresses were given by prominent citizens, among whom may be mentioned Dr. Samuel G. Howe, who seems to have taken a prominent part in the work of the society. During this period George Combe, of Edinburgh visited this country and gave lectures in New York, Philadelphia and Boston on the science of Phrenology. A piece of silver plate was duly presented to him by friends of the society.

The society continued in active operation until the year 1842. The novelty of the new science was then wearing away. Other topics of interest were coming

forward and occupying a prominent place, ~~and~~ As Mr. Capen suggestively puts it, "In a society of nearly one hundred and fifty members there will always be some who injure the cause of scientific investigation by their weakness, their want of sense, and by their tedious dissertations upon subjects they do not understand

But although the society ceased to exist and the ridicule which had been heaped upon its teaching, so far as the location of the different functions of the brain was concerned, had become a tradition, we find as late as 1879 a paper on the Brain by Hon. Geo. H. Calvert, of Newport, R. I. in which the following significant statement was made- "From the discoveries of Gall, legitimate deductions are, that the brain is the instrument of the mind; that the brain is not a single organ but a congeries of organs, the function of each being to manifest a primitive mental power of feeling, or of intellect."

A little volume of the society lies before me, the title page of which is as follows; " A Catalogue of Phrenological Specimens belonging to the Boston Phrenological Society. Boston. Printed by John Ford, 1835 "

Reminiscences of Dr. Spurzheim by Nahum Capen L.L.D. 1881

It contains a list of 416 specimens or casts . A selection of one or two samples will serve to illustrate the character of the work attempted by the society. The list opens with No. 1 Dr. J. F. Gall, No. 2. G. Spurzheim No. 6, Napoleon Bonapart, No. 10 William Pitt, etc. all without special designation. Further on under "Amativeness " we find No 150, Amative Fortune Teller who deceived almost all the nobility of Vienna. She kept two gentlemen. Cerebellum very large.

Inhabitiveness A. R. W., a lady who feels pleasure in contemplating a certainty of her remaining at home. Large inhabitiveness No. 280. *Language also.*

Contrasting with the above is 290, Irish Traveller celebrated for his great desire to visit foreign countries. He spends ~~no~~ time in any place which he visits but merely passes through them. Organ of Locality very large.

Under the title "Skulls or Casts of Skulls "(sic) we find No. 341 the Austrian General Wurmser. He commander the Austrian army in Italy, and was defeated by General Bonaparte. He was endowed with prodigious courage. This and attachment to his friends formed prominent traits in his character. The organs of combativeness and Adhesiveness are remarkably large, and Cautiousness small.

No. 342, Timid Female. Dr. Spurzheim used to show this in contrast with that of Wurmser. The organ of Combativeness being small and Cautiousness largely developed

No. 416. Dr. Benjamin Rush. Intellectual organs and love of approbation very large. (See report on file.)

The most notable specimens of the Society's Collection were the skull and heart and brain of Spurzheim, which had been placed in the fireproof building of the Mastodon Museum

The skull of Dr. Robertson was another notable specimen. ^{He was a} ~~He was a~~ ^{Scotch} ~~Scotch~~ physician, ^{who} ~~who~~ was an old resident of Paris, and was President of the Anthropological Society, an institution founded by Spurzheim. Mr. Capen in his "Reminiscences" described a meeting with Dr. Robertson in Paris, and recalls the fact that this devoted friend left in his will, directions that his collection, and his skull should be presented to the Phrenological Society, and should be placed forever by the side of the skull of his master.

When the Medical Faculty moved from the old building into its new quarters on Boylston St., in 1880, this collection of casts was left behind and remained for many years stored in the basement. After the dental faculty, which had occupied the building in its turn, moved to its new quarters on Longwood Ave., the old school building remained empty for a while and was then pulled down.

~~The Warren Museum of Natural History, 92 Chestnut St.~~

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The Warren Museum of Natural History, 92 Chestnut St.

to make way for the new administrative entrance to the Massachusetts General Hospital. When the workmen were beginning the process of demolition, the warning voice of Dr. R. H. Fitz called the writer's attention to the danger of the destruction of this collection. Steps were immediately taken to transfer what had been left to their present quarters in the Administrative Building, of the Harvard Medical School, where they now lie safe from destruction and awaiting some new prophet to bring about their resurrection..

Meanwhile the skulls of Spurzheim and Robertson lie side by side, as they would have wished, in the Warren Anatomical Museum.

The skull of Spurzheim has been described by Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, by whom it was prepared for the Craniology Collection of the Museum. It is conspicuous with its ideal facial angle as an example of a highly cultivated and intellectual type. The virile and salient outline of the skull of his friend ^{Dr. Robertson} make it a fitting companion.

In this connection it may be appropriate to say a word about this devoted adherent and admirer, Mr. Nahum Capen. Personally, I had but one interview with him shortly before his death, many years ago, and I found him keenly, almost aggressively interested in the future of the Phrenological Society's collection, and the final disposition of

Spurzheim skull. The Faculty was at the time moving into the new building on Boylston Street, and I was able to assure him that the skull had been transferred to better quarters, and was placed beside that of Dr. Robertson. I could see from his demeanor and earnestness that this had been to him a lifelong duty, and was duly impressed with the spirit of a veteran of an old-time campaign, which had been waged fearlessly against a worldwide group of opponents. On this occasion, Mr. Capen left with me a copy of his "Reminiscences" (1881) which, with a biograph of Spurzheim, dated 1833, belonging to Dr. J. Mason Warren, furnish many valuable and interesting details as to his hero's history.

In delving among some old family manuscripts recently, I came across the correspondence relative to the sale of the collection of the society, and their purchase for the Harvard Medical School. Under date of Sept. 11, 1832, is a communication from a committee consisting of Winslow, Lewis Jr., and J. Greely Stevenson and J. D. Fisher asking permission to use the Anatomical theatre for a course of four lectures by Dr. Spurzheim on the Anatomy of the Brain.

On October 26th, 1832, an anxious inquiry from Nahum Capen refers to a report that the theory of Dr. Spurzheim, including his anatomy of the brain was

regarded by him, Dr. Warren, as a complete system of quackery and unworthy of the attention and study of intelligent men. There is no copy of a reply to this query, but on November 11th, following Spurzheim's illness and death, we find a communication from "the friends of the late Dr. Spurzheim appointing Dr. Warren chairman of a committee consisting of Drs. Warren, Jackson, Shattuck, Channing, Parkman, Ware, Reynolds, Robbins, Lewis, Stevenson, Fisher, Grigg and Howe to administer the examination of, and embalming of the corpse, and the taking of a cast of the head. Also, a request on November 13th from Mayor Quincy, to this committee to take charge of the funeral services in the Old South Church, and "to accompany the body from the church to its final deposit, by accompanied by such other citizens as may choose to attend",

It seems quite clear from this correspondence that Dr. Spurzheim, at the time of his death, was regarded with respect by the leading members of the profession of the City of Boston, and that opportunity had been given him to expound his new theories in regard to the anatomy and function of the brain. In the succeeding years it is evident that Dr. Warren used many of the preparations of the Phrenological Society in his lectures, and that a large number of skulls and casts were loaned to him by the Society for this purpose.

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During this period phrenology was received by the medical world with much skepticism, its followers and opponents being divided into two camps. It is evidence that the whole subject attracted great interest, and there are letters showing a widespread participation in the discussion of its merits. Of Dr. Warren's views we gain an insight from his biographical notes.

"At the time I was in Paris, in the year 1801 and 1802, the new system of Craniognomy, as it was called, attracted some attention. Gall, of Vienna, was the founder of this doctrine, but at the time I mention he did not excite great attention in Paris. Soon after, however, Gall endeavored to place the phrenological system on scientific foundations and presented his claims of improvement to the Institute, by whom a Commission was appointed to investigate the subject "

The head of this Commission was Cuvier, who, instead of throwing ridicule upon the matter, went into a thorough investigation of the claims of Gall, and laid a report before the Institute.

For many years after this, Dr. Warren devoted himself to a study of the structure of the brain as laid down by Gall, with the corrections of Cuvier.

He goes on to say,

" Some years ago, Dr. Spurzheim, the coadjutor of Gall, brought me letters from friends in France ,and I endeavored to show him all the attention due to a scientific stranger. He examined all my crania. He gave four or five lectures at the Medical College, and afterward gave a course on phrenology to a promiscuous assembly of ladies and gentlemen"

Spurzheim's career in Boston was unfortunately but too brief, and in a few weeks was brought to a close , as we have seen, by typhoid fever. Dr. Warren goes on to say "His body being carried to the Medical College, I made a public examination of it, in the presence of a crowded theatre, and preceded the demonstration part of the discourse by an account of the investigations and improvements, and other labors of this distinguished and philanthropic gentleman.

In consequence of the lectures of Dr. Spurzheim, a Phrenological Society was constituted "

As we have seen, the decline of interest in the work of the society led to its subsequent dissolution and the purchase of its collection by Dr. Warren in 1847. The correspondence referred to above give some interesting details of this transaction. The transfer took place in 1849, and the collection, consisting of more than five hundred ~~articles~~ and fifty articles, was removed to the Mastodon room on Chestnut Street, where a fireproof building

preserved the skeleton of the Mastodon, the Zeuglodon and many other interesting and valuable contributions to natural history. Here the Collection found a temporary home while the transfer to the new building of the Medical School in North Grove Street, was arranged.

In view of the controversy in regard to the so-called science of phrenology waged at that period, it is interesting to note Dr. Warren's view of the subject. Writing in 1847 he says, :-

"The importance of phrenology is derived, according to my view, from the fact that it leads to the development of the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system: and also the study of the forms of the crania enable us, in some measure, to understand the degree of intellectual power possessed by individuals".

Referring to a visit of Dr. Combe, of Edinburgh and his brother, Mr. Combe, to this country, ^{Dr. Warren} ~~he~~ states: "These gentlemen dined at my house and Mr. Combe afterward lectured on the subject of phrenology in various parts of the country. I never attended his lectures for I found that in all of the phrenological courses which I attended, the principal object of phrenological lectures was not to expose the ground and basis of phrenology, but to interweave it with popular and interesting topics. However judicious this might be, it was, of course, not calculated to give me the information I desired".

At the time of the transfer of the collection from the Phrenological Society to the Medical School, it appears to have been stored in the Institution for the Blind, at South Boston, under the charge of Dr. Samuel G. Howe. The following papers give some interesting details as to the change of ownership effected at that time.

Boston, June 25, 1849

Dr. J. C. Warren.

Dear Sir:

You made a proposition last year to take the cabinet of the Boston Phrenological Society. Some difficulties, which then existed, to the acceptance of your proposition are now removed. I should be pleased to know whether you are now disposed to take the cabinet upon the terms then proposed.

Very truly yours

(signed) S. G. Howe.

Boston, June 27, 1849

Dear Sir:

The debt of the Phrenological Society is only about \$125. The cabinet was stowed away in an attic chamber many years ago. It is, I presume, in a tolerably

good state of preservation, though I have not examined it. I hardly know how to find a catalogue. According to the best of my recollection there are about 25 skulls (of which Dr. Spurzheim's is one), and three and four hundred casts.

The cabinet could be easily sold to some of the ^{soi disant} phrenologists who peddle their wares about the country, for more than the sum above named, but the Society is not disposed to sell it. Whoever takes it, however, will probably hold possession, for the Society has been so long dormant that it is not likely ever to revive.

Very truly yours,

(signed) S. G. Howe.

Boston, September 1849.

It is hereby agreed between S. G. Howe and Samuel Downer, Jr., representing the Boston Phrenological Society on the first part, and Dr. J. C. Warren, on the second part, that the cabinet and collection of the said Society shall be given into the possession of said J. C. Warren, in trust, for the said Society upon the following terms, viz., said J. C. Warren shall pay one hundred and fifty dollars into the hands of the Treasurer of the Society.

He shall agree to preserve the cabinet and

collection, and let it be accessible, at reasonable times, to the members of the Society.

He shall agree to deliver back the cabinet and collection, in good condition, to the Society, or its agents, if it should be called for at any time within five years from this date: six months notice being given to him, and the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars repaid to him.

Boston, Feb. 4th, 1850

I hereby acknowledge to have received from the Boston Phrenological Society, through the hands of Dr. S. G. Howe, the cranium and brain of the late Dr. Spurzheim, and the cranium of the late Dr. Robertson, as a part of the collection of said Society, lately received by me: and I do agree to return the said crania of Drs. Spurzheim and Robertson, and brain of Dr. Spurzheim, but not the rest of the collection, which is subject to different conditions, whenever the said crania and brain shall be applied for and reclaimed by the authority of the said Phrenological Society, (J.C.W.)

A letter from Dr. Winslow Lewis, dated June 5th, 1850, and addressed to his venerated friend and preceptor, gives interesting information regarding the final transfer of the relics of Spurzheim. It opens thus:

"I send you the heart of Spurzheim: it has been in my possession since his death " It will be remembered that Dr. Lewis assisted at the autopsy of Spurzheim. That the Collection was considered a valuable addition to the Museum of the Medical School may be inferred by the following letter from Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. It would be interesting to know what was the attitude of the young professor of anatomy to the new science, as embodied in a lecture given by him at that time.

8 Montgomery Place, Feb. 28th.

My dear Sir,-

Tomorrow (Friday) at my usual hour (I o'clock), I shall give a lecture to the class upon the subject of phrenology. I mention it in compliance with a suggestion of your own, but by no means to do more than assure you that I shall be happy to see you if convenient, and ask no reason for your absence if otherwise. I can truly say that the limited time and attention, the hurry so apt to attend the close of lectures ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ renders it very difficult in approaching the subject at all, and especially so in the presence of one who, however lenient in his judgment, could hardly avoid seeing the

imperfections which must attend my brief glance at the subject.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully

(Signed) O. W. Holmes "

And so it came about that the Collection of the Phrenological Society found a resting place within the walls of the newly erected building of the Harvard Medical School on North Grove Street (1846).

We have seen that a post mortem examination was made at the Medical School, and that Doctors Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and Winslow Lewis were the assistants of Dr. Warren on that occasion, and also that a year or two later the heart of Spurzheim was presented to Dr. Warren by Dr. Lewis, and probably also the skull, which was especially prepared by Dr. Shurtleff. Be that as it may, it is evident that at the time it was ^{not} deemed appropriate to mingle these relics of a distinguished scientist, with the somewhat miscellaneous collection of the Phrenological Society, and they were eventually placed, for safe keeping, in the private collection of Dr. Warren, on Chestnut St.

After the death of Dr. John C. Warren, this private collection was placed in the case of his son Dr. J. Mason Warren, and from him the present writer heard many interesting statements about Spurzheim's career.

Dr. Mason Warren, while a student in Europe, had already had his attention called to the new science of phrenology. Under date of Paris, December 17, 1832, he wrote to his father :-

"In your last letter you mention the death of the much admired Spurzheim. Just after its receipt, I was buying for you a finely marked Caucassian head phrenologically mapped out. When I spoke of the sad event to the shop-keeper, at first he would not believe me; but when I gave him the particulars, he could scarcely keep from crying and said "C'est une tres grande perte ". The next day he came up to Bowditch with the secretary of the Phrenological Society in order to learn further details, which Bowditch had received from his brother.

~~In following up the Spurzheim correspondence, we find it continued at periods up to almost the day of Dr. Mason Warren's death in 1867. The loyal friend, Mr. Nahum Capen~~

During Dr. Mason Warren's period of service as Curator of the Mastodon Collection, the relics of Spurzheim occupied a prominent place in the collection. To them was added a portrait by Fisher, purchased by Dr. Warren, and finally hung on the walls of the Museum.

In following up the Spurzheim correspondence, we find it continued at periods up to almost the day of Dr. Mason Warren's death in 1867. The loyal friend, Mr. Nahum Capen, did not lose sight of these memorials. Among the papers referred to I find the copy of an elaborate statement of the facts concerning Spurzheim's arrival in this country, his death and burial at Mount Auburn prepared by him, and with the endorsement evidently of Dr. Warren placed among the records of the cemetery.

A monument erected to the memory of Spurzheim, through the liberality of a prominent citizen of Boston, Hon. William Sturgis, marks the site of his grave. It stands near the main entrance, a classic pile with the simple inscription.

"SPURZHEIM".

This heart, brain and skull, after remaining many years in the Mastodon Museum, were bequeathed by Dr. Mason Warren to the Harvard Medical School. The subsequent history of the Phrenological Society

Collection is comprised in that of the Medical School.

In the Warren Museum of Anatomy, during the period referred to in this account, which has occupied three separate domiciles, may be found the final resting place of the skulls of Spurzheim and Robertson. In the gallery of the School, near by hangs the portrait of Spurzheim, by Fisher¹

As the changing fortunes of scientific theories and research vary from time to time, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the hidden portion of the old collection may return to occupy a more conspicuous position and rejoin their standard bearers. They are at all events for the time in safe and reverent hands, memorials of an interesting episode in the scientific awakening of medicine of the nineteenth century.⁽²⁾

Foot note. Alvan Fisher born at Needham, Mass, August 9th, 1792, died in Dedham, Mass Feb. 14, 1863. He produced many satisfactory and graceful likenesses; that of the lamented Spurzheim, taken partly from recollection, immediately after his death in Boston, was highly valued (Henry T. Tuckerman in "Book of Articles". The portrait was purchased by Dr. J. Mason Warren in March 1863

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Foot note. Since writing this article, I find in the London Spectator for December 13, 1919, reference to a complimentary dinner given to Dr. Marie Montessori, at which Sir James Crichton-Browne, after referring to such authorities as Plato, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Lancaster, Froebel and Herbert Spencer as the forerunners of her wonderful scheme of juvenile polity, added that he could put in a claim for a body of men whose services for educational progress had been too much ignored—the phrenologists. "The phrenologists were wrong, but they were the first to insist, a hundred years ago, on localization of function in the brain, and on the serial exercise in the young of the separate sensory motor and mental powers."

DEATHS

Mrs. Elizabeth S. Barry

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague (Capen) Barry will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cushing avenue, Dorchester. She died yesterday at the Hotel Tudor, where she had made her home for the last seven years with her two daughters, Miss Caroline Barry and Miss Elizabeth Barry.

She was born in Boston 87 years ago, the daughter of Nahum Capen, at one time postmaster of Boston. She lived many years in Dorchester, both as a girl and after her marriage to Shelton Barry. After his death in 1878, Mrs. Barry went back to her father's home in Dorchester.

Other surviving children are a third daughter, Mrs. E. J. Cornells of New York city, and two sons, Shelton Barry of Wilmington and Edmund Barry of Pittsburgh, Pa.