

**HOW TO READ CHARACTER: A NEW  
ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF  
PHRENOLOGY AND PHYSIOGNOMY  
FOR STUDENTS AND EXAMINERS;  
WITH A DESCRIPTIVE CHART**

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How to read character: a new illustrated handbook of phrenology and physiognomy for students and examiners; with a descriptive chart by Samuel R. Wells

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**SAMUEL R. WELLS**

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# HOW TO READ CHARACTER:

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A DESCRIPTIVE CHART.

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I LOOK UPON PHRENOLOGY AS THE GUIDE TO PHILOSOPHY AND THE HANDMAID  
OF CHRISTIANITY. WHOEVER DISSEMINATES TRUE PHRENOLOGY IS A PUBLIC BEN-  
EFACITOR. *Horace Mann.*

THE PROPER STUDY OF MANKIND IS MAN.

*Pope.*

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## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HE first Phrenological CHART ever produced was printed on a single sheet, the size of our common note paper, and was sold for a cent. It simply gave the names of the organs then discovered by Dr. GALL. The next was larger, and gave both the names and definitions of the organs; still later, the charts of Drs. GALL and SPURZHEIM embraced all the above, together with some account of the Temperaments. But as it was with the inventors of the steam-engine, the locomotive, and the steamboat, so it has been with phrenologists. Each succeeding author is supposed to have availed himself of all that has been proved to be true and useful, adding thereto his own observations and experiences. Thus the improved charts of to-day are as unlike those first printed as are the modern steamers, locomotives, and engines to those first invented.

During our thirty years' experience in the practical application of scientific rules to character reading, we have used many different charts, revising old ones year after year, and adding one improvement after another. The present work embodies our latest and best ideas on the subject, so far as they can be set forth in this condensed and popular form.

It contains not only all of the PHRENOLOGY of previous charts or hand-books for self-instruction, but it embraces much more of PHYSIOLOGY and PHYSIOGNOMY than any former book of the kind.

In this Illustrated Hand-book we have endeavored to incorporate just that kind of matter best suited to both the EXAMINER and the EXAMINED, and to put it in the smallest possible compass compatible with completeness of statement and ample illustration. We have endeavored to be systematic in our arrangement, succinct and clear in our expositions, and popular rather than technical or professional in our style. We do not claim that this work is free from error. Our knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Astronomy, etc., will, we doubt not, increase with our years and with more careful study; so we intend it shall be with our knowledge of Phrenology and Physiognomy. We hope to revise this and all our other works when time may permit. We ask examiners and readers to kindly point out errors and to suggest improvements, that we may correct the former and incorporate the latter in future editions.

That this little work may be the means of encouraging the reader to correct any errors of judgment or improper habits he may possess—to cultivate and develop all the higher qualities of mind and heart—and to make the most of his opportunities and of himself, is the desire of

THE AUTHOR.

NEW YORK, *January, 1869.*



# INTRODUCTION.

## THE BRAIN AND THE SKULL.



THE HUMAN SKULL.

SOME knowledge of the structure of the human brain, and of its appearance when exposed, as well as of the general forms of the skull, will be useful to the learner. We can here merely give very brief descriptions, referring those who desire further information to our larger and more elaborate works.

The human brain is an oval mass filling and fitting the interior of the skull, and consisting of two substances, a gray, ash-

colored, or cineritious portion, and a white, fibrous, or medullary portion. It is divided, both in form and function, into two principal masses—the cerebrum and the cerebellum.



BRAIN IN THE SKULL.\*

The cerebrum is divided longitudinally into two equal hemispheres, and each of these, in its under surface, into three lobes. But the most remarkable feature in the structure of the cerebral globe is its numerous and complicated convolutions, the furrows between which dip deeply down into the brain. By means



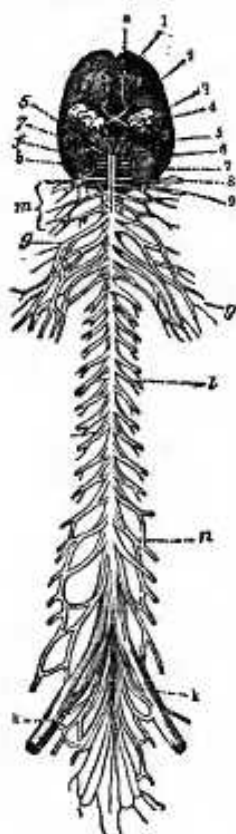
BRAIN EXPOSED.

of these foldings the surface of the brain is greatly increased, and

\* The side and top of the cerebrum are seen in this engraving. A A. The scalp turned down. B B. Edge of the base of the skull, the top having been sawed off and removed. C. Dura Mater, a part of the lining membrane of the skull raised up from the brain. D. Left hemisphere of the brain. E. Right hemisphere. F. The longitudinal cleft or fissure which divides the hemispheres.

In the next engraving the brain is fully exposed.

power gained with the utmost economy of space; for it is a demonstrated fact, that in proportion to the number and depth of these convolutions is the mental force. "The mind's revolvings," as Wilkinson



SPINAL CORD AND NERVES.\*

beautifully expresses it, "are here represented in moving spirals, and the subtle insinuation of thought, whose path is through all things, issues with power from the form of cerebral screws. They print their shape and make themselves room on the inside of the skull, and are the most irresistible things in the human world."

The cerebellum lies underneath the posterior half of the cerebrum, and is about one-eighth the size of the latter organ. It is divided into lobes and lobules, and consists of a gray and a white substance, like the cerebrum, but is not convoluted on the surface like the cerebrum; the gray matter somewhat darker than that of the cerebrum occupies the surface of the cerebellum, the white being interiorly disposed.

Extending from the base of the brain to the atlas or bony pivot on which the head rests, is the medulla oblongata. It is conical in shape, and may be considered as merely the head or beginning of the spinal cord, which continues it, and, in fact, extends the brain down the vertical canal, and by means of the nerves which it gives off, and which pass through notches between the vertebræ, connects it with every part of the body. There are generally reckoned eleven pairs of nerves arising from the brain, and thirty-one from the spinal marrow. It is thus seen that the whole nervous apparatus is included in the mental system, and that the

brain, as the organ of the overruling mind should be, as it unquestionably is, is omnipresent in the human body.

Now, as is the soul which is incarnate in it, so is the brain in texture, size, and configuration; and as is the brain, so is its bony casement, the cranium, on which may be read, in general forms and special elevations and depressions, and with unerring certainty, a correct outline of the intellectual and moral character of the man.

\* a. The brain. b. Cerebellum. c. Medulla oblongata. g, g. Nerves distributed to the arms. k, k. Great setætic nerve, distributed to the lower limbs. l. Dorsal nerve. n. Lumbar nerve. m. Plexus of cervical nerves. 1. Olfactory nerve. 2. Optic nerve. 3, 4, 5, 6. The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth nerves. 7. Portio dura of the seventh nerve. 8. Auditory nerve and par vagum. 9. Hypoglossal nerve.

The heads of the sexes differ in shape as much as do their bodily forms. The engravings here presented are from two skulls in our possession, and were copied by daguerreotype, and show their relative size and shape. The first is from the skull of a man, and is a fair specimen of the male head. It rises high from the opening of the ear, *a*, to Firmness, *b*. It is large in the social region, particularly at Amative-ness, *c*. The phrenological organs of force, pride, energy, and self-reliance are predominant. The second



MALE SKULL.

is of a well-balanced female skull, and is fine, smooth, and even. The leading developments are at *d*, in the region of Philoprogenitiveness, Adhesiveness, and Inhabitiveness, while at *b* and *c* it is much less than in the male. At *e*, Benevolence, and at *f*, Veneration, the female is relatively more developed, but less so at Firmness and Self-Esteem, *b*.



FEMALE SKULL.

The skulls of races and nations also differ widely in form, and these differences are found to correspond with known differences of character. In the Caucasian it will be seen that the forehead is prominent and high, the coronal region elevated, and the back-head moderately projected. The facial angle, measured according to Camper's method, is about 80°. It indicates great intellectual power, strong moral or spiritual sentiments, and a comparatively moderate development of the propensities. The special organs in which the Caucasian brain most excels, and which distinguish it from those of all less advanced races, are Mirthfulness, Ideality, and Conscientiousness, the organs of these faculties being almost invariably small in savage and barbarous tribes.



CAUCASIAN SKULL.

See what a contrast between the Caucasian skull and those of the North American Indian and the negro here represented! One of the



INDIAN SKULL.

most distinctive traits of the aboriginal American skull is roundness. This quality is very manifest in every aspect, but still more so in the vertical and back views than in the one here presented. Great breadth immediately



NEGRO SKULL.

above the ears and in the region of Cautiousness and Secretiveness, and a lofty coronal region, are also prominent characteristics. The forehead is broad and very prominent at the lower part, but retreating, and not high. The back-head in the region of the affections is, in