

Supernumerary fingers

Publication/Creation

1889

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Supernumerary 22
ingles.

29126

Hongkong, January 30th, 1888.

Sir,

The interest attaching to the life-history of the Eurasian is one which no doubt has excited your attention and thought. With this in view, it seems a proper and fit time to collect evidence in regard to the subject, and the subjoined questions are drawn up, with the idea of arriving at what is known concerning the health, physique, longevity, diseases and mental calibre of any with whom you may have come in contact.

Any evidence you may be good enough to favour me with will be duly acknowledged and your name published in connection with the evidence. I have left a table for remarks which I shall be glad to have as elaborate as possible. All communications made by you will be, if published, ascribed to you with your name subscribed or put in brackets after. Your report must be in my hands, before the 30th April, 1888, to be in time for publication.

I send you two schedules, one of which you will kindly fill up yourself, and if there is any other medical man or layman in your district, from whom you think important evidence may be obtained, will you be good enough to interest him in the matter and ask him to fill in the Schedule.

Yours Faithfully,

a sixth finger on each hand.

I beg to bring before the Society another
of a case of a child born in April 1889.
The child is the ^{female} offspring of ^{British} English
parents in every way well developed
weighing the large amount of 10 lbs.

I beg to lay before the Society the
case of a female child born of British
parents in April 1889. The child
weighed 10 lbs at birth & is every way
^{exceedingly} ~~well~~ developed ~~expressing~~ ~~an~~ ~~extra~~
finger except that it is ~~polydactylous~~
in as much as it possesses a
sixth finger & attached to the fifth
finger of both hands.

The additional fingers ~~to the fifth~~
~~to the sixth~~ ~~are~~ consist of oval bumps
of ~~the~~ ~~form~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ measuring
in the long axis of

short. They are covered by normal skin
the ~~first~~ ^{first} of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~plum~~ ^{plum} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~attached~~ ^{attached}
to the ~~side~~ ^{side} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~inside~~ ^{inside} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the}
the fifth fingers. The exact site of them

attachments: on the anterior aspect
of the internal lateral surface of the
finger immediately ^{2 line} ~~below~~ behind the
middle transverse line on the
palmar aspect of the finger.

The pedicles, ^{attaching} ~~connecting~~ ^{the} ~~each~~ fingers, are
exactly similar in shape & length & breadth
of attachment. ^{or apparent structure} ~~in~~ ~~the~~. In shape they
are compressed from before backwards.
~~in thickness~~ in length they measure
in thickness from before backwards the
are only $\frac{1}{2}$ " of an inch in breadth.
The pedicle allows of the mass being twisted
round twice.

Superficially looked at they seem to
consist merely of little bunches of the
fibrous tissue covered by skin but on
more close examination the nodular
for the nail can be seen behind & a
nodule of hardness is to be felt in the
distal part. polydactylous

There is no family history of
Irregularity in the number of fingers.
has never been satisfactorily worked
out, & the discussion of subject is not
my intention before the Society.

The presence of supernumerary fingers are met with chiefly (if not only) on the outer ^{pre-axial} ~~inner~~ margin of the hands. ~~the presence of~~ ~~supernumerary fingers~~. These presence there is explainable in ~~several~~ ^{one or other of the following} ways.

1. It ~~may be supposed~~ ^{is believed} that the ~~last~~ ^{first} bud which grows in ~~the~~ ^{the} part corresponding to the future hand of the first construction is the main mark of the wrist. Now it might be that the first bud got ~~suppressed~~ ^{developed} as a ~~consistency~~ ^{consistency} before its time as it were & the part so isolated ~~was~~ ^{is} pushed onwards before the ~~advancing~~ ^{normal} main that gives form to the hand. As the hand develops the pre-prinary bud of its pushed to one side of the other & according as it is pushed to the anterior or to a pre-axial margin or to the posterior ~~margin~~ ^{margin} pre-axial margin so it will be an appendage to the thumb or ~~finger~~ ^{development} ~~finger~~ respectively. The fact of its ~~bearing~~ ^{development} a nail & containing bone bearing tissues is in harmony with the ~~main~~ ^{character of} ~~main~~ ^{main} ~~succeeding~~ ^{succeeding} it.

2. The other explanation may be that the pre-prinary bud instead of possessing four ~~not~~ ^{not}

~~with the~~

in its process of division may develop
fingers according to the additional cleft
happens to the post axial a pre-axial so
with the additional ~~for~~ digit be a ~~thumb~~
attached to the thumb with the first finger.
were this the case however ~~it would be~~
~~more likely~~ of the ~~that~~ a sixth meta
carpal bone would be formed he more
likely to be met with than it is.
It seems more probable that the
previous supposition is the correct one &
that a constriction of tissue accounts for
the sewing joint often met with at the
attachment to the thumb a finger as the
case may be.

a true additional finger is well enough a
developmental possibility. If there
is any truth in segmentation of proto-
vertebrae having to do with the number
the finger then it is an impossibility of there
being ~~more than~~ the 5 fingers - five vertebrae
& five spinal nerves represent a consequential
arbitrariness; the segmentation of protovertebrae
rather vertebral somites determining the number
of nerves entering the upper limb. A true
additional finger would ~~represent~~ ^{mean} an additional

20 unite a permanent vertebra in the neck.
a upper dorsal region. There is no anatomical
proof that the large hand is hand & unite
a true finger; from it is not necessary
to call up witnesses to testify to an odd line
& either a ~~co~~ spinal nerve.

The other case I bring before the
Society is that of a megalo-dactylous
finger - the middle finger is the one
enlarged & it has fairly outstripped the
other in growth. I omit to a greater extent
than is not the normal sized finger & thus
the other as ectro-dactylous & diminished
in size. You will observe the whole limb
is diminished in size; but at the same
time the middle finger outstrips the
~~other~~ size of the middle finger of the
other hand which is normally developed.

Table III.—Evidence as to the children of Indian males and Chinese females.

1. *Physique.*
2. *Longevity.*
3. *Diseases.*
4. *Causes of Death.*
5. *Mental Culture.*
6. *Does the child tend towards the male or female habit of body; remaining colour of Hair, Eyes and Skin?*
7. *Does the child of the 2nd or 3rd generation improve or deteriorate?*
8. *Are the females more frequently barren or prolific? How is this affected according to the generation?*



ACCESSION NUMBER
89186
PRESS MARK
MS 1464

Further information to be written on the back of this schedule.