

## **Account of a case of hermaphroditism / by P.D. Handyside.**

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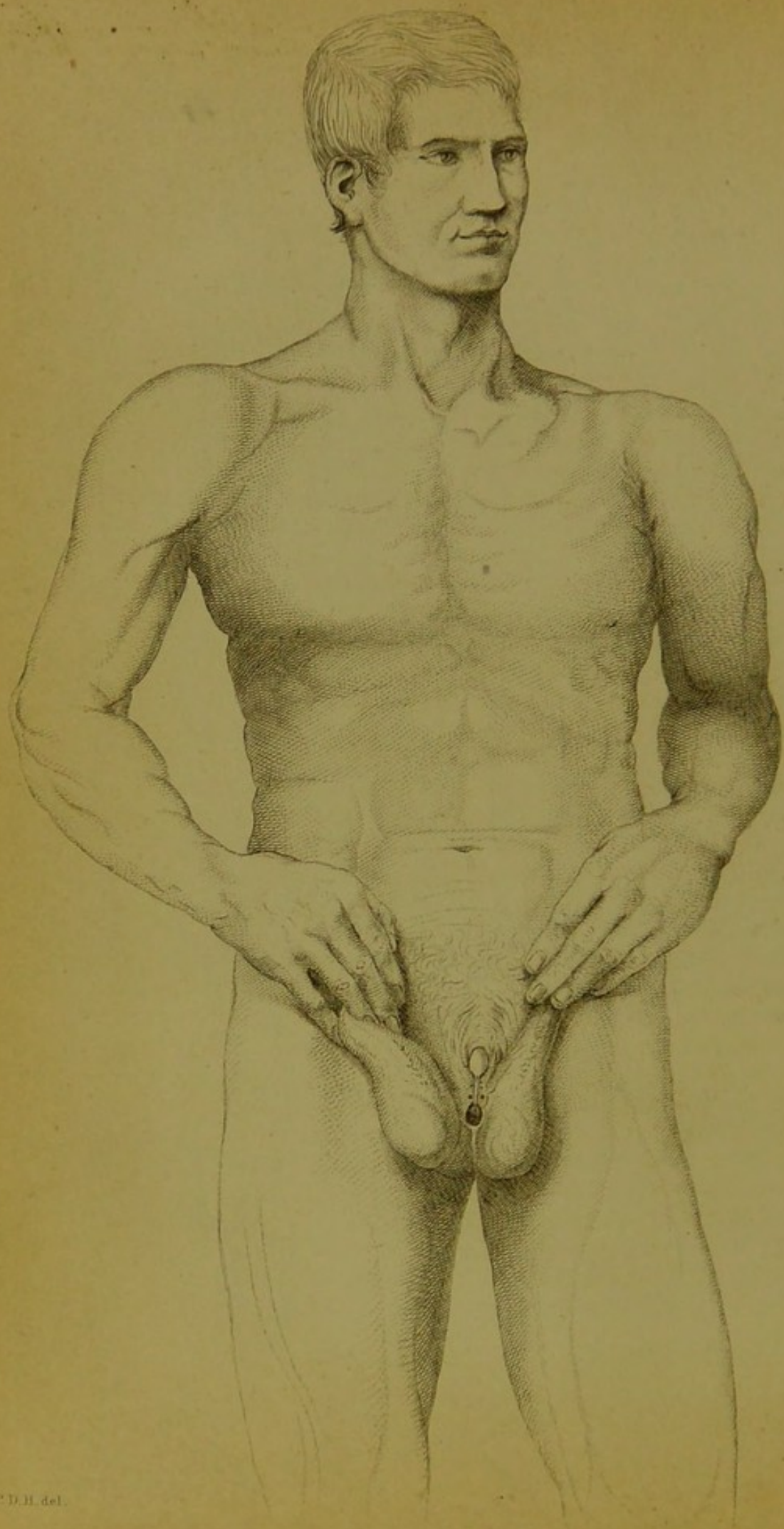
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*George E. Day, Esq. 12th*  
*from the Author*

# ACCOUNT

OF A

## CASE OF HERMAPHRODISM.

BY

P. D. HANDYSIDE, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, LECTURER  
ON ANATOMY IN EDINBURGH, &c.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurg. Society, Dec. 3, 1834.)

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(From the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, No. 123.)

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*Gottlieb Göttlich*, the son of an officer in the Saxon service, was born at the village of Nieder Leuba, near Zittau, in the kingdom of Saxony, on the 6th of March 1798.

He was considered at birth to be of the *female* sex, and was accordingly baptized by the name of *Marie Rosine Göttlich*; the initial letters of which name, with the figures 1818, are stained on his right arm. He had a brother and two sisters, who died before he was born, and of whose appearance he can give no account. He was brought up and entered into service as a female, without his true sex being ever suspected, even by himself, till the spring of 1831, when, on account of a fracture of the left *os femoris*, he was received into the hospital at Dresden.

At this period, the part which had hitherto been regarded as the left *labium externum* became distended by a small round tumour, which proved to be the left testicle, that had descended from the *abdomen*, following the course of an inguinal hernia, which had been produced by a strain at work a short time before. The intestine becoming strangulated, Professor Bach operated for its relief.

A year after this the right testicle descended after a precisely similar manner, and on this occasion Göttlich being at Göttingen, the strangulation was relieved by an operation performed by Professor Langenbeck. The cicatrices are still visible on each groin, marking the seat of these two operations.\* To ob-

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\* I beg to refer to the annexed sketch of Göttlich, and also to a cast in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of the greater part of his body, which I took the opportunity of making during his late stay in Edinburgh.



viate the inconvenience of hernias, which succeeded these operations, a double truss has since been worn.

The parts hitherto regarded as the *labia externa* were thus shown to be the lateral halves of the *scrotum* separated by a fissure on the median line.

He still continued to clothe himself in female attire, and to wear his hair turned up, till November 1832, when he visited the University of Heidelberg; and then it was that I had first the opportunity of seeing him. Professor Tiedemann, before whom he presented himself, did not hesitate to regard him at once as a *male*, but declared him to be (in the words of that distinguished anatomist) "evidently a man, with genitals of uncommon conformation. She will dress herself, therefore, in men's clothes, and adopt the name of Gottlieb." Professor Blumenbach of Göttingen, to whom this individual was presented on the 4th February 1833, confirmed the view of Professor Tiedemann.

Since that period Göttlich has been employed exhibiting himself to the members of the medical profession at the different schools in various countries in Europe. After visiting Bonn, Jena, Marburg, Mainz, Offenbach, Breslau, Bremen, and other places on the continent, he travelled by way of Hamburg and Christiania to London in April last, where he was examined by Sir A. Cooper, Mr Green, Dr Davis, and Dr Grant. He next exhibited himself at Manchester, Liverpool, Cork, Dublin, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Montrose, and arrived at Edinburgh in November last. Since coming here, he has attracted so much of the attention of the profession, that I have been induced to believe that a short notice of the facts connected with his case might not prove unacceptable if placed upon record.

The *general appearance and conformation of body* of Gottlieb Göttlich are essentially and distinctly masculine; although when attired in female clothing he bears a remarkable similarity both in form and temperament to the robust females of the lower class in the Department of the Upper Rhine. There is, however, a perfect masculine gravity of countenance, and a complete manly self-possession in his deportment at those times when he is exhibited in a state of nudity to a number of persons. His features are rather void of expression; he is not very intelligent; in his appetites and desires he is thoroughly sensual; and his discourse and occupations (perhaps from the influence of female habits and society) are altogether womanish. This bias and turn of mind may also proceed from the constitution being so long deprived of that influence which it naturally receives from the developement which the *testes* undergo at puberty; from the long-deferred appearance of which in this individual, his system has failed to be impressed with the true characters of his sex.



The *configuration of the head* also is male, though perhaps there is (apart from a national peculiarity in the form of the skull) a greater deficiency of *cerebellum* than is usual in the male compared with the female, the posterior part of the head being very flat. His sexual desires, however, are far from being below mediocrity. The head is exceedingly prominent in front, but a remarkable and very unusual depression is observable in each temporal region.

In respect to the *surface of the body* generally, there is not that abundant deposition of fat by which muscular action is in the female so much obscured, neither is there that spare development of the muscles themselves, nor that want of character in the bones which characterize the female, and announce the delicacy of her frame-work, by its softer and smoother contour; but in the case before us, the structure of the whole cutaneous and adipose tissues, the well-marked roughnesses along the bones affording firm attachments to the strongly developed and very powerful muscles, whose action is marked in the diversified lines along the surface of the body, impart to the figure of this individual the hard and uneven outline which so generally characterizes the male structure.

Besides the matter and form of the surface of the body, its *proportions* also partake more of the masculine character. The height of Göttlich is five feet seven inches. The shoulders are somewhat projecting. The breadth of the chest measured between the two *acromion* processes is seventeen inches; that of the *pelvis*, between the two anterior superior iliac spines eleven inches,—denoting, therefore, the comparative narrowness of the *pelvis*, and its agreement with that of the male. In this person, as may be observed of the male sex generally, the distance between the *pubes* and the *umbilicus* is shorter than between the *umbilicus* and the *scrobiculus cordis*, while the reverse is found to be the case among females; and the chest is longer in proportion to the other parts than in the female sex. The neck is short and thick; its length, from the chin to the *jugulum*, is only three inches; the length of the *sterno-mastoid* muscle only six inches, while the breadth of the neck (in accommodation with the male proportions elsewhere observed) is four and a-half inches. The *pomum Adami* is largely developed; and the voice, which before the testicles appeared was soft and quite feminine, began at that period to undergo the change of *moulting*, and it has now assumed a somewhat graver and more masculine tone.

The breasts also, which in early life were slightly elevated, have become, since the descent of the *testes*, much smaller and perfectly flat. The *perinæum* is masculine. The knees also present more of the male character, and the circumstance



that, when Göttlich stands erect, they approach more closely together than is usual in the male sex, is attributable to the mode of treatment adopted after the fracture of the *femur* already adverted to.

The next general feature in this person respects the *hair* on the surface of his body. Not only has that on the head become thicker and stronger since the testicles came down, but an appearance of hair on those parts of the body where at puberty in the male it grows has lately presented itself. A light downy beard has appeared on the chin and upper lip, and the hair in the *axillæ* and about the *pudenda* has increased materially. There is a little below the knees, but the legs, thighs, *raphé* of the *perinæum*, arms, and chest, are destitute of this covering.

Lastly, the *genito-urinary organs*, though in their external features imperfectly developed, yet present a conformation essentially masculine. The *pubes* is not prominent, and there is no developement of the *mons veneris*. The *penis* is one inch and a-half in length, but imperforate. The *glans* is distinct, and of a red colour; it is more pointed than usual, appearing like an enlarged *clitoris*, to which it bears a more perfect resemblance from the absence of the *urethra*; there is, however, a slight longitudinal depression where the *urethra* should have opened. The prepuce is one inch in length, loose and rugose, overhanging the *glans*, and attached to its lower surface, on each side of the depression for the *urethra*. The *crura penis* are large; and, on an examination being made through the *rectum*, may be distinctly felt proceeding from the *tubera ischii*, and uniting together a little way in front of the arch of the *pubes*. When erected, the length of the *penis* is increased to two inches, and in thickness it resembles a common-sized forefinger.

Below the *penis*, and occupying the place of the *septum scroti*, there is a narrow elevated line or *raphé* one inch and a-half in length, commencing at the *frænum præputii*, and terminating on the upper surface of a canal of about one inch in diameter and three inches in depth, leading to the urinary bladder. The opening into the bladder is through a narrow orifice at the farther end and on the upper surface of this capacious canal, and corresponds in direction, in length, and in width to the female *urethra*.

When the walls of this canal, simulating in some respects a *vagina*, are examined by the aid of the speculum, they are seen to be lined by a membrane presenting many folds resembling the *carunculæ myrtiformes*; and upon a more minute and extended examination of this canal with the assistance of a sound in the bladder and the finger passed up the *rectum*, it seems to have no connexion whatever with a *uterus*, a *prostate*,



or any other organ. No menstrual discharge, or any symptoms indicating the natural efforts to perform that function, have ever occurred. At the period when the *testes* descended, however, Göttlich experienced repeated attacks of *hæmoptysis*.

The urinary passage is separated from the *perinæum* by a semilunar fold of skin (resembling the *furca virginis*) which serves to direct forward the stream of urine; and its inferior border is at the distance of two inches from the *anus*, but connected to it by means of the usual cutaneous elevation,—the *raphé perinæi*.

The testicles, which are about the common size, though rather softer than natural, are, with their vessels, unequivocally present. They are pendulous in the halves of the *scrotum*, and placed at an inch distance on either side of the *raphé*, already alluded to as occupying the situation of the *septum scroti*.

From the *meatus urinarius* to the *glans penis*, the membrane on each side of the *raphé* appears in some particulars to resemble the portion of the natural *urethra* anterior to the *bulb*. It is thin and delicate, and highly vascular; and there are observable on its surface, near the *glans*, three minute *lacunæ*, probably the orifices of Cowper's glands, from which a mucous discharge is poured out; as well as two larger valvular openings (capable of admitting fine bristles to the depth of an inch,) which are the terminations of the *vasa deferentia*, and are placed immediately below the former apertures, and at the distance of about four or five lines on each side of the elevated line, which corresponds to the *raphé* and *caput gallinaginis* of the *urethra*.

The seminal fluid which, in the act of coition, or in nocturnal emissions, is discharged from the openings of the *vasa deferentia*, has been submitted to the microscope, and found to present the usual characters.

In the last place, with regard to the *sexual desires* manifested by this individual, these are moderately strong. He has had frequently connexion with the male, from the age of fifteen years to the present period, and, indeed, up to the time when the testicles descended, he felt no inclination for connexion with the female. He has, however, since that period experienced this desire, and gratified it while at Hamburgh two years ago. The circumstance, that he cannot perfectly perform the functions of a man, may serve to explain how he has not much passion for women, and how his amative desires are still directed towards his own sex.

In addition to the detail of facts to which in this communication I have confined myself, I would observe, that the pe-



cularities of developement now described appear to me to consist almost entirely of *deficiencies of male organization*. Though I have, in compliance with the common language of authors, entitled the case one of Hermaphroditism, as this term has been commonly applied to instances of animals being brought forth whose organs of generation are preternaturally formed,—yet, in strict physiological propriety, this is a term which ought, I believe, to be confined to that species of malformation of the organs of generation, in which there is really a mixture of male and female parts in equal or in different degrees.

Under the impression, then, that such is the just and correct anatomico-physiological definition of an hermaphrodite, and that there is much reason to believe that no strict instance of such a condition of the generative organs,—a union of all the organs of both sexes in the same individual,—has ever occurred either in the more perfect animals, or in the human species, I would designate the foregoing case of Göttlich as one simply of *Hypospadias*, (or *urethra* forming but half a canal, and opening below the *penis*, or in the *perinæum*;) which is only the first step towards true and real hermaphroditism.

But a feature in which I believe *this* case of *hypospadias*, though in many particulars resembling others on record, to be perhaps unique, is in the manner in which the *urethra* opens on the upper surface of a wide canal; therein appearing to be strictly analogous to the mode of entrance of the membranous portion of the *urethra* into the *bulb*.

In conclusion, though such malformations of the parts of generation in the male, which have been mistaken for a mixture of those of both sexes, are in a great number of cases beyond the reach of surgical art, it is otherwise in the present instance, where there exists a very minor degree of imperfection in the impregnating organs; it being ascribable only to a deficiency in the *urethra*, and apparently to no other cause that Göttlich has proved himself to be incompetent to discharge the functions of his sex. Accordingly, the imperfection in the *urethra* might be materially diminished, if not altogether removed, by contracting the orifice of the wide canal in the *perinæum*, and by uniting the edges of the divided *scrotum*; thus continuing upwards the canal of the *urethra* to the *glans penis* itself. The present case is one in which we might fairly anticipate success from such an operation. When it was formerly proposed, however, by Professor Langenbeck, Göttlich declined all surgical aid, and he is now still more averse to a proposal of this kind, since it would at once deprive him of his present easy and profitable mode of subsistence.

March 1835.