On the os penis of the chimpanzee (Troglodytes niger) and of the orang (Simia satyrus) / by Edwards Crisp.

Contributors

Crisp, Edwards, 1806-1882. Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

[London]: [publisher not identified], [1865]

Persistent URL

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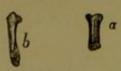
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On the Os Penis of the Chimpanzee (Troglodytes niger)
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M.D., F.Z.S., &c.

The communication I am about to make will, I think, be received with some amount of gratification by the members present, as there are none of us, I presume, that wish to claim relationship with the ape, and any discovery that makes the line of demarcation between man and the brute more definite and positive will be hailed with satisfaction. All, as far as I know, who have dissected the two apes above named—animals among the anthropoid Quadrumana that have most frequently come under the knife of the anatomist—have either



a. The penis-bone of a young Orang.b. The penis-bone of a young Chimpanzee*.

denied the existence of a bone in the penis, or have inferred that it was not present. During my first examinations of the Orang and

^{*} These hones are represented with the periosteal covering.

Chimpanzee, when the anatomy of these apes excited less interest, I did not examine the male generative organs with sufficient care, and I inferred, as others had done, that no bone was present. In my more recent examinations I have been more minute, and, to my surprise, I find that both the Chimpanzee and Orang have a penis-bone as exhibited in the preparations before the Society and in the draw-

ing which I now exhibit. (See woodcut, p. 48.)

I first discovered this bone in a young Orang, and next in two Chimpanzees, now in my possession. Through the kindness of Mr. Flower, conservator of the Hunterian Museum, I examined all the male anthropoid apes in spirits at the College of Surgeons. In a very young Chimpanzee weighing about 5 lbs., and having only four incisor teeth, I found this bone small and acicular. In two Orangs, about two years of age, it appeared to be of about the size of the specimens before the Society; but in these I judge only from external examination. This bone, I believe, is present in the Gorilla also, an animal that in many respects is more distant from the human family than the Chimpanzee. The bone in these young anthropoid apes (Orang and Chimpanzee) is about one-third of an inch in length, and about a line in width, with the extremities slightly enlarged. In the Chimpanzee it is rather shorter and thicker. What size it attains in the adult animal remains to be seen: it is probably as large as, or perhaps larger than the same bone in many of the lower Quadrumana. There is one thing, however, tolerably certain, that the presence of this bone is an indication of a great degree of inferiority, as regards place and position, in the animal

[From the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, January 10, 1865.]

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