[Leaflet (8 June 1880) about the conjoined twin girls, Rosalie and Josepha Blazek.].

Contributors

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(Translation from the German.)

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The rare deformity of the twin-sisters, Rosalie and Josepha Blazet, of Skrejchow (district Mühlhausen) in Bohemia, consists in a junction of the posterior walls of the pelvis, similar to that of the well-known Hungarian sisters, Helena and Judith, and probably to that of the so-called Two-headed Nightingale. They may be defined as Pygopagi. Their development corresponds to their age and they were well fed at the time of my examination. The distinctly separate formation of each child is manifest; sometimes one sleeps whilst the other is awake, and the voluntary movements, and also the reflex-movements, on mechanical irritation of the skin of the lower extremities, are separate in each individual. In accordance with the junction of the two pelvis the labia pudendi majora are united, as well as the Genital and Anal apertures. The seemingly single urethral orifice is situated beneath a small elevation or fold, originating from a junction of the rudimentary Labia minora, and corresponding to a median preputium clitoridis, from which on both sides short labia minora proceed. I have not sounded the urethral orifice, but I have seen urine flowing out of it. Beneath it are situated the vaginal orifices, lying close together and separated by a longitudinal septum. These, again, are separated by a narrow Perineum from a single Anus. Remarkable besides in these girls is a singular assimetria of the skulls, which strikes one as well in viewing the cranial ovals from above, as in viewing both heads, held upright from behind. Viewed from above, the ovals appear flattened on their apponent sides in the anterior circumference of the skull, and strikingly prominent behind. Seen from behind in a vertical direction the flattening of the apponent parts of the skulls is most striking.

The children were born, with the assistance of a country midwife, on the 20th of January, 1878, of a mother 22 years old, who, two years previously, had given birth to a healthy girl. Rosalie was born first, with the head foremost. After the expulsion of the upper part of her body, an impediment occurred in the process of parturition. The midwife now by strong tractions delivered the four feet of the children and the pelvis. After this the upper part of Josepha's body followed, and finally her head. When the medical man who was sent for, arrived, the birth had been completed. The after-birth come spontaneously, and has not been examined. The childbed of the mother took a normal course.

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