

DIFFERENCES OF SEX.

Physical and Intellectual Inequalities Between Man and Woman.

Pre-eminence of the Masculine Sex in Almost Every Particular.

G. DeQuincy in Popular Science Monthly.

The sentimental pretensions put forward by a political school which holds that woman is intellectually the equal of man...

The nutritive phenomena in birds and mammals, including the human species, are more intensive in the male than in the female.

The respiratory phenomena of men are also stronger than those of women. The pulmonary capacity of a woman is a pint less than that of a man of the same size.

The thoracic index of woman is less than that of man (Weisgerber). The man absorbs more oxygen, although he does not breathe as often.

The relative weight of the skeleton to the total weight of the body is less with women; Topinar says that in the physical characters of her skeleton woman is intermediate between the infant and the masculine adult.

The male individual is always larger than the female. This is observable in our domestic animals. M. Topinar fixes the average difference in height between man and woman at twelve centimetres (four and two-thirds inches).

Woman is also lighter than man, although she often appears larger on account of the greater development of her adipose system.

The muscular system of the male is better developed and more vigorous than that of the female. This may be observed in wild and domestic animals.

The movements of a man are more precise than those of woman. Thus men make the best pianists. The skull of the male is more voluminous than that of the female.

Other differences between the brains of the two sexes relate to the conformation. According to Broca, Wagner and Hueschke, and Wright of New York, the frontal lobes, the seat of the highest intellectual faculties, are less developed in woman than in man.

her body. Some anatomists allege that the right side of the brain is superior in woman and the left side in man...

The differences in the relative prominence of the lobes of the brain may explain why woman is more given to the life of the heart, and man to that of the mind...

The question of the relative morality of the sexes has been debated by thousands of authors. Without going over their ground, we will endeavor to show what light has been cast upon it by recent facts in demography.

We now come to the consideration of the intellectual faculties. The male is more intelligent than the female in all the superior species.

Trainers of trick-dogs prefer males. Regarding the human species, all known systems of legislation recognize an intellectual inferiority of the female sex to the male.

Broca says they are a little less so, although he makes no distinction between woman in all that they undertake where profound thought, reason, imagination, or the application of the senses and the hands are concerned.

In the evolution of tastes and ideas, woman marches about a century behind man. One might say that she is in the course of going through the phases that we have passed in arts, letters, science, and philosophy.

It results as a whole from this parallel between the sexes that, among the superior species, the male exceeds the female not only in the complexity of the nutritive phenomena, but also in muscular force and intellectual development.

The superiority of women appears everywhere among ancient and modern inferior races, but is never observed among superior races, which are, on the contrary, always characterized by the pre-eminence of the male.

The same appears to take place in respect to age. Girls grow faster than boys till they are 17, after which the man keeps on growing and the woman remains at a standstill.

maturity than during youth or old age, in such a manner that the maximum of masculine pre-eminence corresponds with the climax of his evolution.

The biological considerations we have adduced explain to us why the two sexes tend to diverge from each other as we proceed from the lower to the higher classes.

It might be thought that the physical and intellectual inferiority of woman may be set a foot in the ground by the fact that she has a more exercised brain than those of man.

But this is not correct. As to bodily strength, it readily appears in the circus, where the two sexes receive the same physical education, that the boy is always more vigorous than the girl.

Let us recall the facts which the men perform regularly as for hidden to the women. The view that the intellectual superiority of man and inferiority of woman are due to differences in education is likewise not just.

In former ages, when the mass of the people were groping in ignorance, neither sex were better instructed than the other; and now, in the France of to-day, there are still 600,000 children of both sexes who never set a foot in a school, and receive absolutely no education.

We have already seen that in mixed schools, where children of both sexes receive precisely the same education till they are 15 years old, the girls are far ahead of the boys.

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