

we cannot say whether their death had been occasioned by the knotting and twisting of the cords.

Osiander<sup>1</sup> relates a similar observation.

Another instance is reported by Sammhammer. He found the patient already dead from a sudden outburst of hæmorrhage, but determined to empty the uterus by turning. The first child, a male, was easily extracted, but he then found that its cord was entangled with the previously procident cord of a second child; the two being twisted together into just such a plait as that which girls make in their back hair, so that, having divided the cord of the first child, he had to slip it through the other six times before their disentanglement was completed.

Meineyer<sup>2</sup> has described and given a drawing of another remarkable entanglement of the cords of twin fœtuses at the fourth month of pregnancy. One cord was 14 inches, the other 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long; they were connected with a common placenta.

Lastly, Jörg once saw the cord of twins twisted into a knot.

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ARTICLE III.—*On the Proclivity to Phthisis commonly ascribed to Persons of Xanthous Complexion.* By JOHN BEDDOE, B.A., M.D., Clifton.

THE opinion that pulmonary consumption was most prevalent and fatal among persons of light or xanthous complexion, was, not many years ago, almost universally entertained; and statements to that effect found a place in almost all books that touched on the etiology of the disease. More recently, this supposed fact has come to be doubted, and the questions connected with it, like so many others relating to phthisis, have been subjected afresh to investigation.

M. Louis, usually so slow to admit the truth of traditional doctrines, did not show his habitual caution in this matter. On the strength of certain observations made by M. Papavoine, on the relative frequency of different complexions in boys and in girls, he decided that it was "a matter of extreme probability that the lymphatic temperament constituted a more or less marked predisposition to the development of phthisis, at least in France, and more particularly at Paris."<sup>3</sup> By "the lymphatic temperament" he meant the constitution accompanied or indicated by light eyes, hair, etc., which M. Papavoine had found more frequent in girls than in boys.

I have never met with M. Papavoine's essay, but am compelled to doubt the accuracy of his observations, from which, taken in connection with the greater frequency of phthisis in the female than in the male sex at Paris, Louis came to this conclusion. The following table (I.) exhibits the varieties of colour in 1000 adult males and as many adult females, belonging almost wholly to the working

other than elsewhere, and the gelatine of Wharton was completely absent in those situations.

<sup>1</sup> Osiander, *Handbuch der En-bindungskunst*, vol. i., part i., § 418, p. 307.

<sup>2</sup> *Zeitschrift f. Geburtshülfe*, vol. i., p. 189.

<sup>3</sup> *Researches on Phthisis*, p. 483 of Dr Walshe's translation.

classes. The observations were made in certain populous thoroughfares in the metropolis :

TABLE I.

	No. of Observations.	Eyes Light.					Eyes Neutral.					Eyes Dark.				
		Hair					Hair					Hair				
		Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.	Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.	Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.
Males, 1000		2·8	10·5	30·	13·3	·7	·4	1·6	6·2	5·	·2	·4	·9	6·5	18·3	3·3
Females, 1000		3·4	8·2	27·	10·6	·3	·6	1·9	7·3	6·	·4	·8	1·5	8·	21·4	2·7

Differences in the colour or transparency of the skin can hardly be made the subject of numerical observations ; with them, therefore, I have no concern. But I think myself entitled to ground on the foregoing figures the belief that, in London at least, the sexes do not differ very materially from each other in the proportion of light to dark hair and eyes. Women may be rather more in the habit of disguising the natural colour of their hair by various means ; but the hue of the iris cannot be similarly altered, yet we see that dark eyes were even more common in the females, in the proportion of 34·4 to 29·4.

Fournet says, he “ met with few light-haired persons among the phthisical (in Paris) ; the colour was generally brown, sometimes black. The pilous system was almost always well developed and brown ; hazel or brown eyes were most frequent among his patients. Subjects with a strong muscular constitution, a well-developed and well-formed skeleton, and a sanguineous temperament, formed nearly one-third of the total number of his phthisical patients.”

Drs Cotton and Leared, at the Brompton Hospital, could make nothing of temperament and complexion as causes of phthisis. Drs Liddon and Playne have furnished me with the results of some observations made by them on the subject in that hospital. Out of 76 patients, they found that 3 had red or auburn, 3 light brown, 47 brown, 16 dark brown, 4 black, and 3 grey hair. The eyes were in 3 blue, in 3 dark blue, in 5 bluish grey, in 1 bluish green, in 19 grey, in 12 dark grey, in 5 greyish hazel, in 22 hazel, in 4 dark hazel, and in 2 black. These figures certainly do not support the notion formerly current, and which still lingers among the profession.

I come now to my own observations on phthisical patients, which derive their value from the fact that certain investigations, undertaken for another purpose, into the proportions in which the same combinations of complexional colours occur in the general population, enable me to furnish a trustworthy standard of comparison. The number of cases noted was 500 ; of the patients, 240 were natives of Scotland, and were almost all observed in the Royal In-

firmory of Edinburgh; 217 were English, of whom 74 were seen in Brompton Hospital, and the rest in London, Bristol, and various parts of the country; 43 were Irish, seen in Edinburgh and elsewhere. Persons having grey hair were not noted.

The following tables exhibit the complexional characters of these 500 persons, compared with those of the general population of London, Bristol, and Edinburgh, of the natives of Edinburgh admitted into the Infirmary for all diseases, and of the Irish population of that city. The proportions are in all cases reduced to percentages:—

TABLE II.

	No. of Observations.	Eyes Light					Eyes Neutral.					Eyes Dark.				
		Hair					Hair					Hair				
		Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.	Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.	Red.	Fair.	Bn.	Dark	Blk.
Phthisical Individuals, Of whom Scotch, Natives of Edinburgh, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh Streets, London Streets, Bristol Streets, Irish, mostly Ulster and Connaught,)	500	3.3	9.9	21.2	13.9	1.7	.8	1.5	4.3	7.5	.6	1.1	.7	5.9	20.6	7.
	240	4.4	9.6	21.5	12.3	3.1	.8	2.7	3.1	4.8	.2	1.7	.4	7.5	21.7	6.2
	250	4.6	11.	25.2	10.6	1.	.4	2.4	8.	5.2	.4	.6	1.	7.6	16.8	5.2
	2500	5.2	13.8	28.	11.2	1.2	.6	1.8	5.7	5.3	.7	.7	1.1	6.4	13.7	4.5
	2000	3.1	9.4	28.5	11.9	.5	.5	1.7	6.8	5.5	.3	.6	1.2	7.2	19.8	3.
	1000	2.	10.8	29.7	13.1	.6	.5	1.3	5.1	5.	.2	.9	.5	6.7	20.2	3.3
	575	5.2	9.1	30.9	17.1	3.7	.2	1.	3.7	6.6	2.1	.2	.2	2.6	11.	6.6

Perhaps the facts may be rendered more easily appreciable by a different arrangement, as in Table III.

TABLE III.

Eyes.				Hair.				
Light.	Neutral.	Dark.		Red.	Fair.	Brown.	Dk. brown	Black. <sup>1</sup>
50.0	14.7	35.3	Phthisical Persons,	5.2	12.1	31.4	42.	9.3
50.9	11.6	37.5	Do. Scotch,	6.9	12.7	32.1	38.8	9.5
52.4	16.4	31.2	Edinburgh Natives,	5.6	14.4	40.8	32.6	6.6
59.4	14.1	26.4	Edinburgh Streets,	6.5	16.7	40.1	30.8	6.4
53.4	14.8	31.8	London, . . .	4.2	12.3	42.5	37.2	3.8
56.2	12.1	31.6	Bristol, . . .	3.4	12.6	41.5	38.3	4.1
66.	13.6	20.6	Ireland, . . .	5.6	10.3	37.	34.7	12.4

<sup>1</sup> This class includes not only coal-black, which is rare in this country, but certain shades of dark brown which are not readily discriminated from black unless in a very good light.

The indications of these tables seem to me tolerably clear. They not only disprove the old notion of the special liability of xanthous persons, but go far towards proving consumption to be more rife among dark-eyed, dark-haired people.

Dark eyes, it will be seen, were more frequently met with among the phthisical than in any one of the five sections of the general population with which I have compared them.

Red hair rose slightly above, and fair hair fell a little below the average. Brown hair (corresponding to the "chatain" and "chatain clair" of the French, and not to their "brun") counted little more than three-fourths of its proportionate number. Dark brown, on the other hand, rose almost as high above the average, and black still higher, showing an excess in the proportion of more than 3 to 2. The frequency of black hair among the non-phthisical Irish, does not tell much on the average, as Ireland furnished only 43 cases out of my 500—less than 9 per cent.

I can detect only one possible source of fallacy worth mentioning. It is conceivable that the progress of the disease may be in general more rapid, and the duration of sojourn in hospital consequently shorter, in fair than in dark subjects. The result of this would be to diminish unduly the number of xanthous persons present in hospital at any given time. The observations taken in Edinburgh, fully one-half of the whole, are almost free from this objection, having been made while I was resident in the Infirmary, and had the opportunity of examining the cases on or soon after their admission.

That consumption may be very frequent among persons of fine skin and delicate complexion I by no means intend to deny; in fact, I believe that a very clear complexion, especially when conjoined with black hair and eyes, is very often associated with proclivity to tubercular disease. But into this question I will not enter, inasmuch as it cannot, like that which has just been discussed, be readily brought to the touchstone of numbers.

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ARTICLE IV.—*Note of the Result of an Analysis of a Portion of the Bread with which A-lum was accused of Poisoning the European Residents at Hong-Kong.* By J. IVOR MURRAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. and F.R.S.E.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, Wednesday, March 17, 1858.)

ALTHOUGH most of my readers must be familiar with the particulars of the case to which I am about to refer, I must crave their indulgence while I very briefly recapitulate the circumstances connected with it.

On the 2d February 1857, ten prisoners—Cheong Achew, Cheong Aheep, Cheong Achok, Lum Asow, Tam Aleen, Fong