

Rays
from the
Rose Cross



A Magazine of Mystic Light

EDITED BY MAX HEINDEL

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CELESTIAL VISITORS
COMETS AND THEIR INFLUENCE
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THE STELLAR RAY AND NUTRITION
OUR DAILY BREAD
THE BRAIN AND THE MIND

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The Brain and the Mind

LIKE all other bodies or organs through which the higher vehicles and the spirit work, the brain was started before the germ of mind was given to man. Back in the Saturn or first revolution of the Earth Period before man had a dense chemical body, when it was still a thought form and had not crystallized sufficiently to be called chemical, the first impulse was given to building the frontal part of the brain.

So our brain dates back to the beginning of the Earth Period; in that far away time the substance of which the brain was built was desire stuff, matter of the fineness and plasticity of the desire world. There was, however, only an impulse, a germ brain, so to speak, and it was not until the Fourth Revolution, and the Third or Lemurian Epoch of that Revolution, that we actually built a physical brain composed of mineral matter. This was done by means of the separation into sexes, as recorded in the *Cosmo* and in the Bible as well. One half the creative force was turned upwards and built the brain and larynx.

The purpose of this brain was to act as a vehicle for the mind. It is a far cry from the beginnings of the brain in the first revolution of the earth period to its present development, and yet, even at the present time, wonderful as has been our progress, we are only touching the fringe of that which is to be. Probably no person living among ordinary humanity today is using more than half of the gray matter in the brain.

The ancients (outside of Initiates) had no knowledge of the functions of the brain. The word *brain* does not occur one single instance in the

Bible. The Hebrews, in common with other ancient races, had apparently no idea that the brain was the organ for expression of the mind. They located the mind in the kidneys. David, in one of his Psalms, said "the Lord trieth the heart and the kidneys." Substitute the word "mind" for "kidneys" and it becomes intelligible. Jeremiah, in speaking of the hypocrites of that day, said of them (Jer. 12:2) that they had the Lord in their mouths but not in their reins, or kidneys (minds). But even before the Hebrews located the mind in the kidneys, the ancient Babylonians placed it in the liver. As far as can be ascertained, they were the first people to identify the mind with a bodily organ.

Alcemon, the Pythagorean of Crotona, who lived about 500 B. C. , was the first to mention the brain as the vehicle of thought, but no one paid any attention to his statements, although Plato, who lived about 200 years later, advanced the same theory but in a purely speculative manner, without giving any reasons for his belief as Alcemon had done. Aristotle contended the brain was a cooling organ that frigerated the blood for the heart, and we find that down through the centuries the mind as an organ of thought is assigned to first one part of the body, then to another.

In quite modern times the theory was held "that the brain was a gland and secreted thought as the liver secretes bile." And today there are still many who, although they would not put it quite so baldly as it is expressed in the sentence just quoted, nevertheless really think so, for they contend that it is not an animating presence in the physical body which has the power to think but that the ability to

think is inherent in the brain itself, which, in the final analysis, is but little removed from "secreting thought," as the phrase puts it.

The brain is divided into two hemispheres and these two hemispheres, as regards gray matter, are exactly alike to all appearances, yet there is a difference: The center for speech (Broca's convolution) is developed only in one hemisphere. The further curious fact has been brought out that all right-handed persons have the center for speech developed in the left hemisphere, and left-handed people in the right hemisphere; but in ambidextrous persons the convolution is present in both hemispheres.

Another interesting fact is that no one is born with the center for speech already developed in the brain. As a rule, all babies hear at birth, they can also see, although they do not focus their sight properly, showing that they are born with the centers of sight and hearing already constructed in the brain; but the child has to wait a period of time varying from ten months to several years in extreme cases before the faculty of speech is acquired.

Material science gives us no explanation of this variation in the use of the senses, but if we look to our *Cosmo* we will find the reason why. There we learn that the ear is the oldest and best-developed sense organ we have. Next we find that in the Polarian Epoch feeling was a localized sense. Material science has been unable to find in the brain the center for feeling; they wonder at its absence and say that it is not yet localized, but students of the Fellowship know that during the Polarian Epoch feeling was localized in the Pineal gland and has since been distributed over the entire body, and the sense of feeling will never again be localized in the brain, as it has reached a stage of comparative perfection.

No special mention is made in the *Cosmo* of the sense of taste, but by a process of reasoning we can arrive at the conclusion that it was one of the senses unfolded at an early stage of our evolution, as the infant very quickly demonstrates its ability to recognize sweets when placed in its mouth.

The ability to express ourselves in speech

belongs to man alone. None of the lower kingdoms can so express themselves, It was first acquired in the Lemurian Epoch, but we must remember that then we did not use words as we do today. At that time "His language consisted of sounds like those of nature", says the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*; the ability to use words with which to express his feelings came later.

The Lemurian was able to perceive the Light through the sensitized spots which later developed into eyes. The *Cosmo* does not state which sense was perfected first, but we may reasonably conclude that the eye was built before the faculty of speech was perfected, for we know that practice makes perfect, long practice in the use of the ear and in taste, also in building those centers into each new physical body we have occupied, enables the spirit to build them in a shorter period of time, than centers of faculties acquired later.

So during the antenatal life the spirit does the work of the earlier revolutions and the early epochs, and continues that work clear through to our present time, as far as the centers for hearing and taste are concerned, and the child is born with the ability to hear and taste fully developed, for the centers for those senses are apparently built into the brain at birth. The sense of sight, being a later development, is not perfect; although the center is built in and the child can see when born, a longer time is required than the length of the antenatal life to learn to use the physical eyes and to focus them properly.

While speech may not really be a later acquisition than sight, it is the only one of the senses which we do not share with the animal kingdom, and a longer time is required to perfect it. The spirit lacks the practice which would enable it to build the center for speech in the antenatal life, and the child is born while it is still in the Lemurian stage of its unfoldment. Like the ancient Lemurian, it gives utterance to sounds, and continues to do so, until in time it has finished the work upon that center and gradually, in a stammering and hesitating manner, learns to make itself understood by means of the spoken word.

It may also be that the variations noted in the

length of time required for unfolding the center of speech may depend upon the evolution back of that particular spirit.

Perhaps it will give us a little insight into the manner in which the ancient Lemurians were able to communicate with each other while only uttering sounds, when we remember how quickly a mother can interpret her baby's wants from the character of the cry.

The center for speech is frequently destroyed through accident, disease, etc. If the accident occurs in childhood, it has been noted that after a varying length of time (depending somewhat upon the age of the child) the faculty of speech is regained. The Ego has built in a new center in Broca's convolution in the opposite hemisphere. In all such cases investigation by post mortem examination (the only means of investigation open to the material scientist) the new center is apparent, for the old center can be seen in its destroyed condition.

The child's brain is plastic, like the rest of its body, and can more readily be molded to suit the needs of the indwelling spirit, but with grown people this ability does not seem to exist. In all cases of adults where an investigation was available after death, it has been shown that when the faculty of speech was partially recovered it was due to a rebuilding of that center that was injured and not to the establishment of a new center.

We are all familiar with the phrase, "Thought furrows the brain." This is literally true; the gray matter folds over and over upon itself, and new brain areas are formed like shelves in a library one above the other. If you wish to study a new language you must make a new shelf, and the spirit can organize new brain areas to perform new duties, but the difficulty with which this is done increases with advancing age. There are large areas in the brain that are smooth and unfurrowed and the logical deduction is that we are not using those portions of our brain. This gives us an insight into the manner in which our brains may develop increased mental capacity in the future by bringing these smooth areas under cultivation.

Mind

Let us leave the brain for the present and glance briefly at the mind. In the third or Lemurian Epoch, the pioneers who had prepared themselves for the reception of the mind were given the nucleus by the Lords of Mind, who radiated from themselves the substance which they helped man to build into a germinal mind, but the majority of mankind were not ready at that time for this new step, and had to wait until the Atlantean Epoch. The mind is our latest acquired body and is also our most important one. In the vast majority of people it is unformed and unorganized; it is in its mineral stage and has power over the minerals only. Few are capable as yet of original thought, all that many of us do is to reflect the thoughts of others, whether those others are in the visible or invisible worlds.

"Mind was given to man so that, by the work of the Ego in the mind, Thought and Reason may be evolved, so that Desire may be conducted into channels which will lead to the attainment of spiritual perfection." The mind is composed of the substance of the Region of Concrete Thought and is at present a cloud-like essence. Being the youngest, it has behind it a shorter period of development than our other vehicles and it requires twenty-one years after the birth of the dense body to bring it to birth. It is our desire for knowledge which impels us to think, therefore selfishness lies at the bottom of our ability to think.

The mind is temporarily extracted from the dense body during sleep, but at death it is permanently extracted, and remains with the Ego after death until it leaves the Second Heaven for the Third, when the mind is dissolved and the substance left behind in the Region of Concrete Thought.

Let us glance ahead and see what the mind will be like in future periods. As now during the Earth Period it is in its mineral stage, it will reach its plant stage in the Jupiter Period; it will then become alive, and we will then be able to work with life, with living plants, as the angels are doing now. We will be able to imagine, or to think into existence, forms which will live and grow like

plants, and we will have the guidance of the plant kingdom in that period (our present minerals). In the Venus Period the plant kingdom will have advanced to the animal kingdom and we shall give them living and feeling forms, and in the Vulcan Period our minds shall have advanced to the stage where they can create or propagate other minds, and we will give to the humanity of that period a germinal mind.

Now having briefly reviewed from various sources, the origin and development of the brain and mind, let us see if we can find how the mind uses the brain as a physical vehicle of expression. Perhaps I should say, how the spirit combines the two, for the spirit is back of the mind. We are told in the *Cosmo* that the Reflecting Ether is the medium through which thought is impressed upon the brain. There are several methods by which a thought can reach the brain. The first and most generally used method is the one described on pages 89 and 90 of the *Cosmo*. We are all perfectly familiar with this method—how the thought is thrown against the desire body, and if attraction is aroused, the thought is whirled into the desire body, added life is given to the thought form, and it is clothed in desire stuff; then it can act on the etheric brain and through that on the physical brain to compel action.

If repulsion is aroused in the desire body, a struggle takes place between the spiritual force in the thought form and the desire body, and knowing this fact we should see to it that when we as spirits desire to arouse action which will result in some good deed, the thought form we send out has back of it and in it, enough will and spiritual force so it can fight its way through, in spite of the force of Repulsion, and secure the needed desire stuff to clothe itself, instead of being thrown out of the desire body. If we do this, we will not have so many good impulses which go no further than impulse, because the spiritual will or force is lacking in it.

Another method by which the spirit can impress thought upon the brain is through the blood. The blood is the vehicle of the Ego and carries our feelings and emotions. It is, in a sense, the vehicle of

the subconscious memory, and is in touch with the memory of nature, which is much more accurate than the conscious memory. The pictures in the Reflecting Ether are carried into the lungs, through the air we breathe, and there transmitted to the blood, and as the blood flows to every part of the body, including the brain, a more or less distinct impression of that which it contains in its storehouse, including our subconscious thought, may be impressed upon the brain by the spirit, if it becomes necessary.

Still another way is where the super-conscious memory, which is inherent in the Life Spirit, is able to impress itself directly upon the Reflecting Ether of the vital body, without the necessity of clothing itself in desire stuff; this is intuition or conscience speaking to us. In a fourth way the Life Spirit can flash its message of wisdom directly to the heart, which instantaneously flashes it on to the brain, by way of the pneumogastric nerve, resulting in first impressions, the intuitive promptings of the Life Spirit.

Having traced the origin and development of both mind and brain, and looked ahead into the future and caught a glimpse of the evolution of the mind during the three periods yet to come, and having grasped as fully as our present minds will permit, the immensity of that ultimate plan, let us now consider some of the methods by which this mind and brain development may be accomplished, both having as the object of their development the spiritual evolution of the Ego.

Let us begin with the brain: We all know the intimate connection that exists between the brain, the nervous system and the blood. The blood is the medium by which nourishment is carried to the various parts of the body, and the kind of food we eat must have a great influence on the brain. We are told in the *Cosmo* that “Phosphorus is the particular element by means of which the Ego is able to express thought and influence the physical body.”

Phosphorus is found in greatest concentration in the brain and “the proportion and variation of this substance is found to correspond to the state and stage of intelligence of the individual....It is there-