

Contents



Introduction	7
Having Your Bumps Felt: The physical measurements of the skull correlate to a person's personality	9
Bad Vibrations: A battalion of marching soldiers can cause a suspension bridge to collapse	19
Going For Gold: All base metals can be turned into gold	26
Good Vibrations: Hysteria is the sole preserve of women and it can only be alleviated by genital stimulation	33
All Smoke and Quivvers: Tobacco can cure a variety of health problems	43
Hey, Hey, We're the Monkeys!: Injecting monkeys' glands into humans encourages sexual rejuvenation	51
From Mendle to Mengele: The selective breeding of humans can weed out the weak from society.....	57

Plane Stupidity: The earth is flat	72
From Popcorn to Mozart: Humans can be influenced by subliminal messaging	80
Victoria's Secret: Cocaine and heroin can cure a range of man's ills	94
Heaven Scent: Disease is caused by foul smell and lack of personal hygiene	106
The Origin of the Specious: There is a missing link in the evolutionary chain	114
Serving One's Fellow Man: African and Polynesian societies indulged in cannibalism	129
Rats Get a Bad Press: The plagues of the Middle Ages were bubonic and carried by rats' fleas	137
Who's Your Daddy?: Offspring can inherit characteristics of previous mates of the female parent..	148
Subterranean Homesick Blues: The earth is a hollow vessel	155
Are Bears Polar?: The bodies of animals contain a life energy that can be influenced by external magnetic forces	163
Liquid Assets: The body is made up of four humours – blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile	177
Bibliography	186
Index	187

Having Your Bumps Felt

The physical measurements of the skull correlate to a person's personality

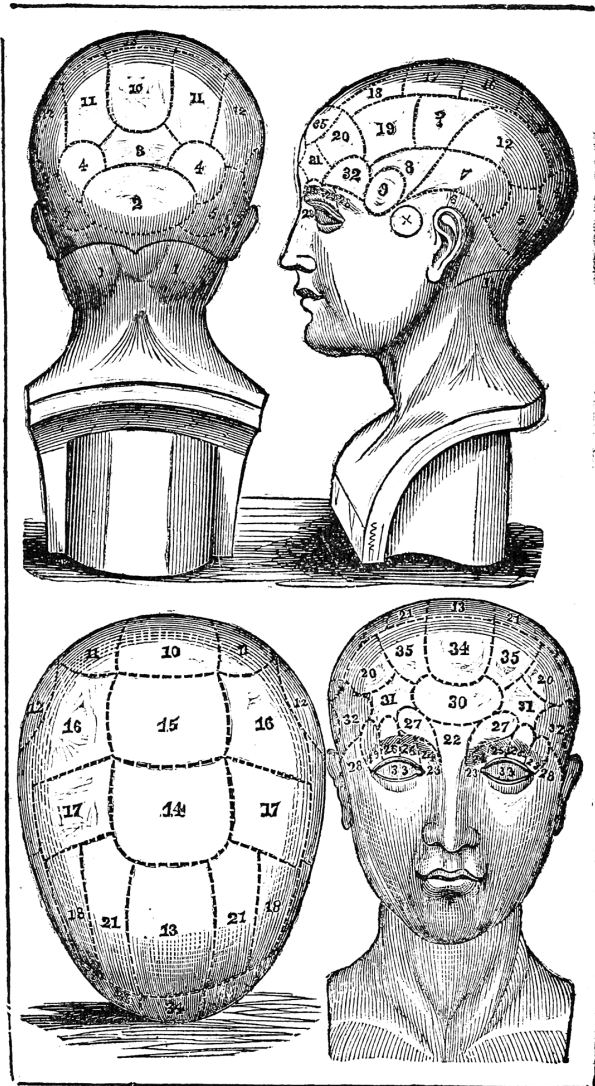


THE MAJORITY OF the scientific frivolities of previous centuries inflicted little or no real harm during their reign, and evaporated without much trace in the light of new discoveries. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the pseudoscience of phrenology, which caused wide-ranging injustices and misery in its time and, most damaging of all, reached out from its own grave to promote genocide at the close of the twentieth century.

THE GALL OF IT

The father of phrenology was the German physician Franz Josef Gall (1758–1828), a product of the University of Vienna, an institution that served as a breeding ground for several other spurious notions about the human race (see box on page 11). Gall developed the theory that the human brain is comprised of twenty-seven distinct zones, each of which is a wholly separate and autonomous organ with

When the Earth Was Flat



The phrenological bust

individual responsibility for certain functions, characteristics and pre-dispositions.

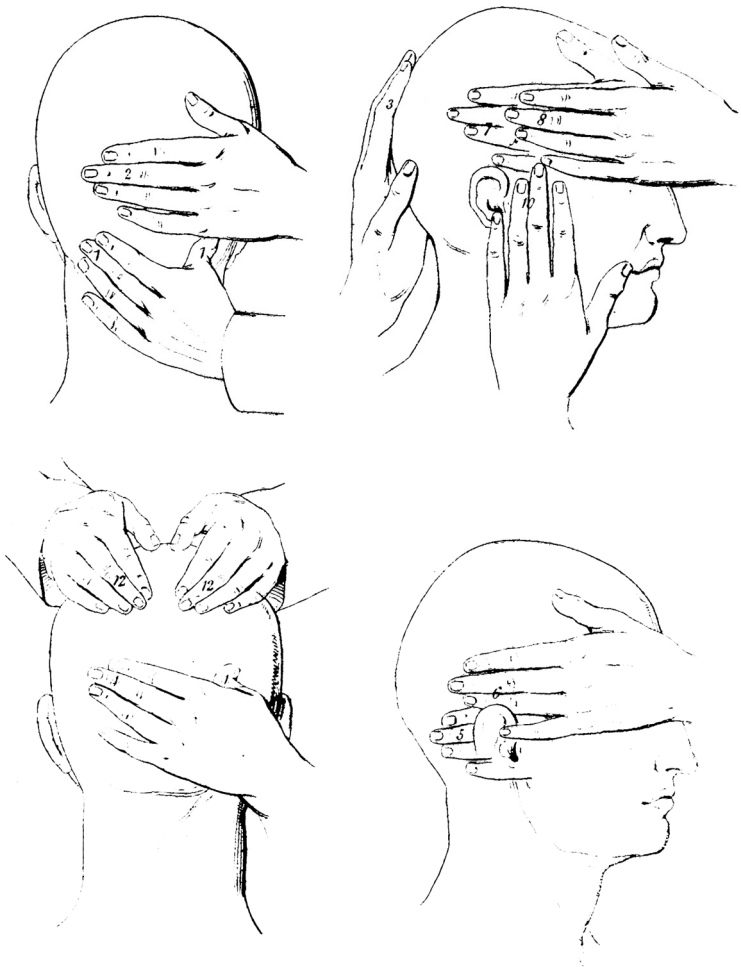
LESSONS IN IDIOCY

By 1925 the University of Vienna had become an intellectual hotbed of racist ideology. The most notorious and far-reaching of such notions was *Rassenpflege* – the quest for racial hygiene. Professor Otto Reche, director of the university's Department of Anthropology, was the most vocal proponent of such ideas, proclaiming, '*Rassenpflege* must be the basis for all domestic policy and at least a part of foreign policy as well.'

The more an individual used one of the zones, or allowed themselves to be driven by the emotional or physical urges dictated by it, the larger that zone would become – similar to an overused muscle. In Gall's defence, his findings were not completely off the mark: it is now known that certain areas of the brain are linked to specific functions or temperament, and that some of these areas can become enlarged with mental exercise.

Had Franz Gall finalized his research at this point, no harm would have resulted. His error was in expanding the basic premise into the foundation stone of a sizeable edifice of speculation and assumption. By 1805 Gall had decided that the twenty-seven zones must be responsible for the

When the Earth Was Flat



Someone having their bumps felt