External Morphology of the Primate Brain. C. J. CONNOLLY. (xiii, 378 pp., 16 tables, 343 illus., $10.00. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1950.)

The present reviewer recommends Doctor Connolly's book to the anthropologist requiring basic data on the physical characteristics of the brain. This is a work in the tradition of the great classical monographs on the subject but not merely this. Although it would be a great service to present anew and in one place material that is accessible in only a few libraries and that can only be studied by persuading libraries to open cases reserved for expensive folios, Connolly's book is more than a redaction. The data presented are original and obtained by a uniform method that enhances the value of comparisons. The procedures and instruments that Connolly employed to obtain his data are described and can be recommended to others who have not developed their own. Another point of practical value is that the specimens used are in the United States National Museum and therefore available for further and independent study. At this point it may be worth emphasizing the value of collections of this type. Space and funds for such collections are hard to come by and museums find it difficult to defend them against the understandable but still short-sighted demands of aggressive commissioners who desire to emphasize the public appeal of exhibits. Most "brain collections" turn out to be disappointing affairs. The only solution to this problem is the development of three or four significant regional collections around which research in physical anthropology in the area can be developed.

Connolly's presentation of the evidence for the value of endocranial casts as a means of arriving at information about the configurational patterns of the brain the crania once contained and his own data relating to this subject will be appreciated by the anthropologist interested in this problem.

It is very difficult to obtain comparable data on brains throughout the primate range and Connolly has gone a long way toward bridging the gaps in our existing knowledge. Evidently Connolly was unable to get exact information as to the precise age, sex and body weight of some of his animal specimens. This lack will be keenly felt by those who have long awaited such data and again emphasizes the need for the deposition of the pertinent data with collections like that at the National Museum. Connolly found the average brain weights for Negroes to be 1198 grams (males) 1127 (females), for whites 1264–1298 (males), 1226 (females) and 1310 for male Malays. With the exception of the last named group these weights are low and there will probably be some querulous comments on the implications of these data, despite Connolly's caution that body weight as well as stature needs to be considered before attempting to interpret such figures. Connolly finds the brains of females not only lighter and smaller than those of males of the corresponding race but also possessed of greater regularity of convolutional pattern. In females, moreover, "the frontal region is relatively higher, the top of the brain flatter. The temporal lobe is smaller in length and depth and is more inclined medially when viewed from the lateral side."

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