

ANTHROPOID APES.

MAN'S NEAREST KIN IN THE ANIMAL WORLD.

BY THE EDITOR.

THAT comparisons are odious is an old proverb which is applicable when in judging of the higher animals we are involun-



APOLLO.

A new orang-utan in the Zoological Gardens of London.

tarily struck with a strong similarity to man. Although the apes range indisputably higher than any other creatures except *homo*

sapiens, so self-styled, their very aspect is repulsive to us, and if we analyze our sentiments we will be compelled to admit that we have become prejudiced on account of the tacit comparison we make to ourselves. Apes range far below man, and man deems it opprobrious that they should be considered kin to him, and yet how human are they! We abhor them as a caricature of ourselves. They appear like an attempt at manhood which has turned out a conspicuous failure. If an ape did *not* remind us of a human figure, we would find in the expression of his face, his stature, his carriage, and general deportment, as much beauty as that which we admire in a St. Bernard or a full-blooded Arabian steed.

Let us try to divest ourselves of the odium of comparisons and consider the ape race with that natural interest which we cherish for all life, so as to be impartial in our judgment, and we shall find that the eye of the chimpanzee is remarkably soulful, that the manners of the orang-utan are astonishingly affectionate, and the devotion of the gorilla to his family is manly to a degree that compels respect.

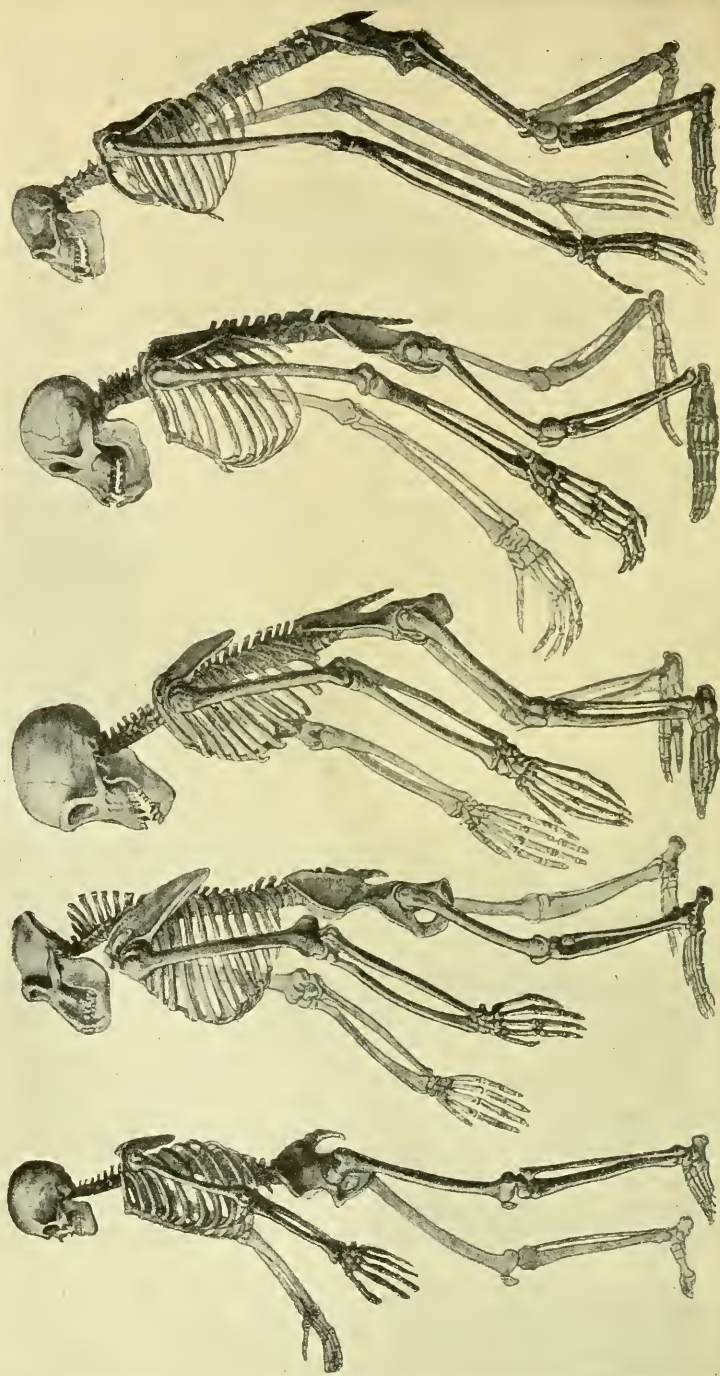
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Prof. H. Klatsch, one of the foremost anthropologists of Germany, speaks pretty authoritatively in the name of his colleagues when he says in a new, large and popular work, *Weltall und Menschheit*,¹ that man can scarcely have developed from any of the anthropoid apes, but that both man and ape must have developed from one common ancestor now extinct. The three large groups of anthropoid apes, the gorilla, chimpanzee and orang-utan² must be regarded as degenerates from a higher type, for they are most like man in their childhood and youth and develop their beast characters as age advances. They have lost their adaptability, and being unfit to survive any considerable change in climate or mode of life, seem to be destined by nature to die out.

Gorilla and chimpanzee are closely related to each other while the orang-utan forms a group by himself. The latter is very delicate in his health and so almost every district harbors a special species. He is found only in Borneo and some of the adjacent islands. We might call him a pessimist, for he has a melancholy temper and is generally in a contemplative mood. He prefers solitude to

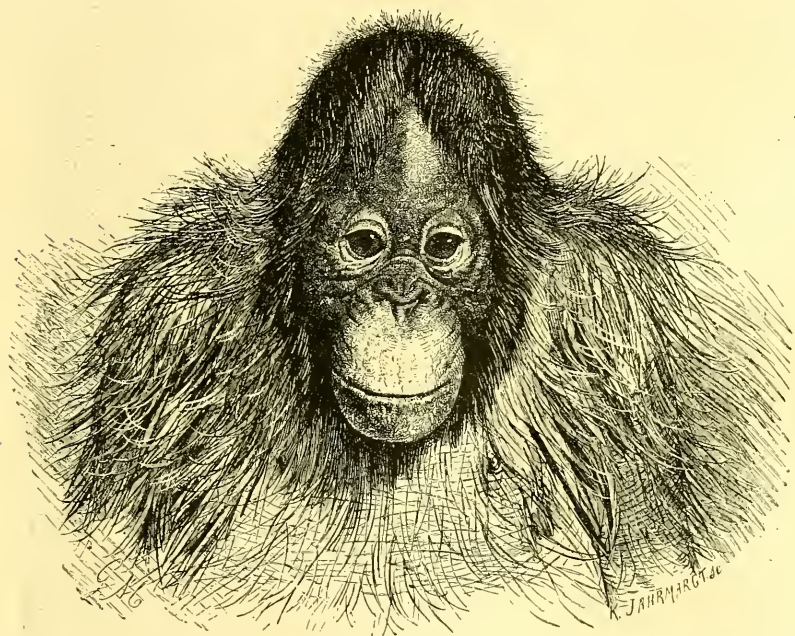
¹ Edited by Hans Kraemer. Published by Bong & Co., of Berlin, Leipzig, Vienna and Stuttgart. 5 vol. 4 to.

² The popular pronunciation *utang*, which has obviously originated by its rhyme with *orang*, is incorrect. *Orang* means "woods" and *utan*, "man" in the Dajak language.



Adult man. Adult gorilla. Young chimpanzee. Young orang-utan. Gibbon.
 SKELETONS OF FIVE ANTHROPOIDS. (From Haeckel's *Der Kampf um den Entwicklungsgedanken*.)

company and shows a disinclination to leave the wooded swamps of his native district. In captivity he is most human in his affections. It is a common experience with keepers, that the orang-utan if threatened by an admonishing finger, will come up like a rueful child and plead forgiveness in a plaintive voice. He will embrace the keeper as if to pacify him, and his whole demeanor seems to say, "Do not be angry; I will be good." It is difficult to keep him long in captivity, however, for he usually dies of consumption after a short time. His mouth is almost of a spherical shape, which makes



ORANG-UTAN.
(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, 83.)

his face repulsive, without, however, succeeding in hiding the good-natured character of his psychical disposition.

The orang-utan appears to us awkward in his movements, but he is not, for he walks along with great rapidity on the stoutest branches in the dense forests of his marshy home. He does not jump but swings himself from tree to tree with unexpected agility. He rarely descends to walk on the ground but remains true to his name, "a man of the forest-trees." Travelers (among them Wallace who has closely observed the habits of the orang-utan in Borneo) declare that he is fearless and peaceful. There are no animals



ORANG-UTANS.

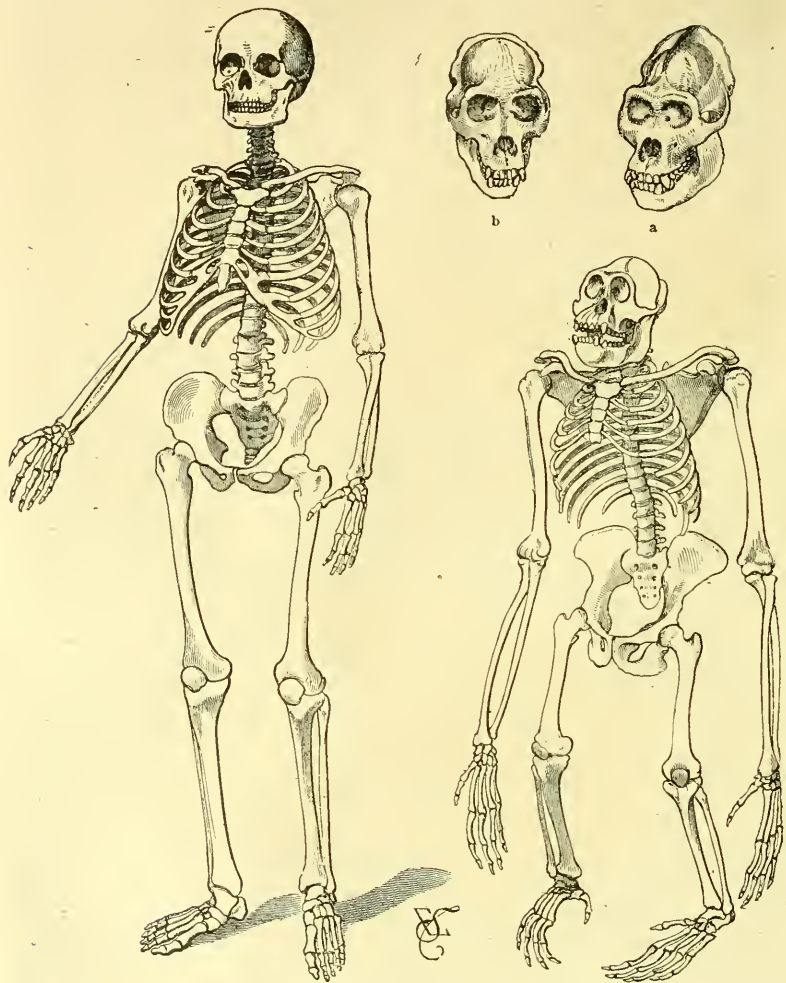
(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, facing page 83.)



GORILLAS.

(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, facing page 56.)

stronger than he except the crocodile, and if a crocodile dares to attack either himself or a member of his family, he throws himself



SKELETON'S OF MAN AND GORILLA.

(a) Skull of male gorilla, (b) female.

(From the Berlin Anatomical Museum. Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, 40.)

upon the enemy's back and, clutching him from behind, lacerates his throat.

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The gorilla, who among all the brutes has a skeleton most like man's, must once have lived in herds to attain his present state.



HEAD OF GORILLA.
(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I. 8o.)

Dr. Brehm gave the name of "Tschego" to this gorilla about whose classification he seems to have been in doubt.

He is not without the more tender emotions and intelligence, but living now in isolation, and lacking the influence of intercommunication with large numbers of his fellows, he has grown irritable and savage although the reports in regard to his ferocity are greatly exaggerated. He leaves other animals and man alone and is not aggressive without sufficient provocation; but when he sees his family imperiled, he is dangerous in fight. He will accompany the fleeing members of his family for a short distance, and then turn upon the hunter, for he is not a coward and will never turn his back upon an enemy. He challenges his antagonist without hesitation, his ex-



YOUNG MALE GORILLA.
(After Hartmann.)

citement being that of anger, never of fear, and the traveler who is not wary may pay dearly for having braved his wrath.

Like all other anthropoid apes the gorilla is vegetarian in his diet. He eats berries, ribs of banana leaves, coconuts and similar vegetable food. He seems to possess strong teeth for the purpose of opening nuts whose shells man can break only with a heavy hammer. Being strong he requires much food, and is a voracious eater. By a constant need of new food he has developed migratory habits, and his presence is destructive to all edible plants in his

neighborhood. He is an especially unwelcome guest to sugar-cane plantations, where he can do great harm in a short time.

The first historical information about the gorilla we find contained in an ancient work entitled *Periplous Hannonis* (Expedition of Hanno) which describes the Carthaginian admiral's bold enter-



YOUNG GORILLA OF THE LEIPSIK ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

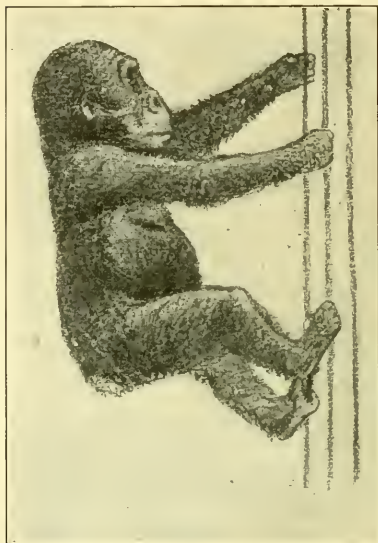
(From the *Illustrirte Zeitung*, October 19, 1905.)

prise of founding colonies in the far west. He rounded the Sierra Leone and makes the following report:

"The third day after we had sailed and had passed through the torrid streams, we came to a bay called the Southern Horn. In the background, there was an island with a lake and within this lake there was another island on which wild people were living.

The majority of them seemed to be women with hairy bodies, and our interpreter called them gorillas. We could not catch any of the males when we gave pursuit. They escaped easily because they climbed over gorges and defended themselves with rocks. We caught three females but we could not take them with us because they bit and scratched. So we were obliged to kill them. We skinned them and sent their hides to Carthage."

Pliny, referring to Hanno's account mentions that these skins were still extant in his time and were preserved in the temple of Juno, which we must assume to be the temple of Istar.



TWO POSTURES OF THE LEIPSIC GORILLA.
(From the *Illustrirte Zeitung*, October 19, 1905.)

Dr. Brehm has a great deal to say about the gorilla. He quotes from Wilson, Ford, DuChaillu, Reade and others, among whom Du Chaillu's accounts are perhaps the most interesting, but must be used with care as they are uncritical and ostensibly written more for the purpose of entertainment than to give exact information. The description of his first encounter with a gorilla is very graphic. This native of the forest had been creeping through the underbrush, but when he discovered the party of hunters, he stood bolt upright and fearlessly met their eyes. There he stood at a distance of about thirty feet and without the slightest indication of fear struck his breast with his powerful fists so that it resounded like a metal drum.

That was his signal of defiance and challenge, and between its repetitions he would utter such a roar that it might be considered the most peculiarly distinctive and frightful sound of the African forests. It began with a bark like that of a large dog, but ended in peals like distant thunder. The hunting party stood motionless on their guard, while the animal's eyes gleamed more fiercely, the tuft of hair on his forehead alternately rose and fell, and he showed his terrible fangs. As he came nearer step by step with his defiant gesture and roar, the explorer says he looked like the creatures, half man and half beast, which old masters used in representing the inhabitants of hell. When he came to within twelve or fifteen feet the hunters fired and the victim fell with an almost human groan.

The Zoological Gardens of Leipsic boast at present of a young gorilla bought by Herr Pinkard in London, and the young anthropoid has so far enjoyed good health in his northern climate. Judging from the experiences we have of other anthropoid apes, it is scarcely probable that he will live to a good old age for all of them have died prematurely of consumption. An artist of the *Illustrirte Zeitung*, Hermann Schüssler, has drawn the interesting specimen in several characteristic attitudes, and we here reproduce some of his most satisfactory sketches.

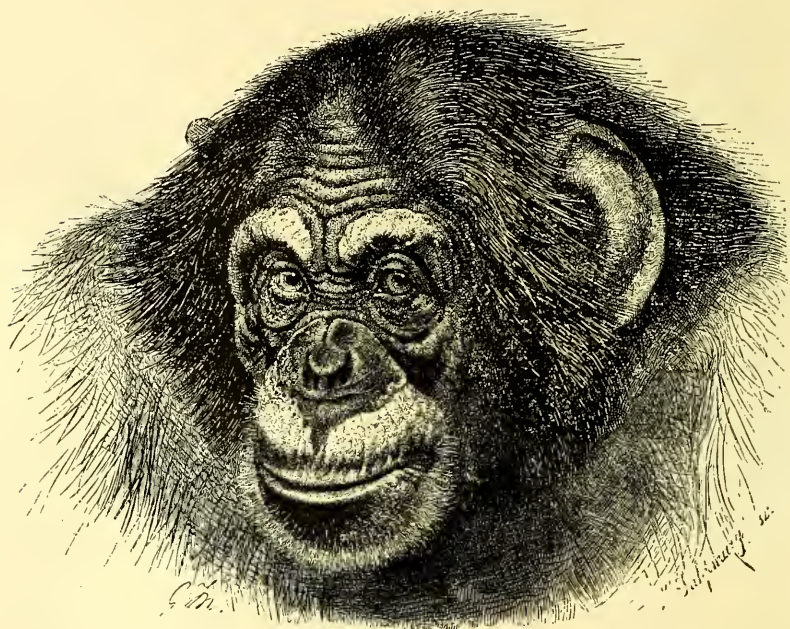
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The chimpanzee, although considerably smaller than man, is perhaps nearest to him in organization. At any rate Professor Friedenthal proved their consanguinity. It is a well-known scientific fact that the serum of the blood of one animal is poison when injected into the arteries of another individual of a different genus, because red blood corpuscles dissolve in strange serum. Professor Friedenthal has proved, however, that kindred species will not suffer greatly by an interchange of serum; for while the interchange of the serum of a cat and a rabbit would be destructive to the life of either, in the case of the horse and the ass, or the dog and the wolf, the results are not fatal. In view of these facts it is of great interest to learn from his experiments that man and chimpanzee possess blood that can be similarly interchanged.

Chimpanzees live in herds, and a company of them gives the impression of a jolly frolicking party of children dressed up as satyrs or fauns. They inhabit the tropic parts of Africa. Besides being literally kin of blood to man, the chimpanzee among all the primates is the only ape that possesses an indication of lips. Man is the only animal that is in possession of two lips. All the monkeys

have a sharp mouth without the gentle curvature which is so expressive in the human face. The chimpanzee's mouth, too, is sharply cut off, but the margins are at least slightly pink in color, while those of the gorilla and the orang-utan are as dark as the snouts of lower beasts.

The chimpanzee is smaller and more slender and graceful than the gorilla. He is not so strong, but far more intelligent. By nature he is a strict vegetarian; but in captivity he learns to take flesh and broth. As soon as accustomed to it he even enjoys and prefers meat to his former diet. Of one chimpanzee, who was brought up in

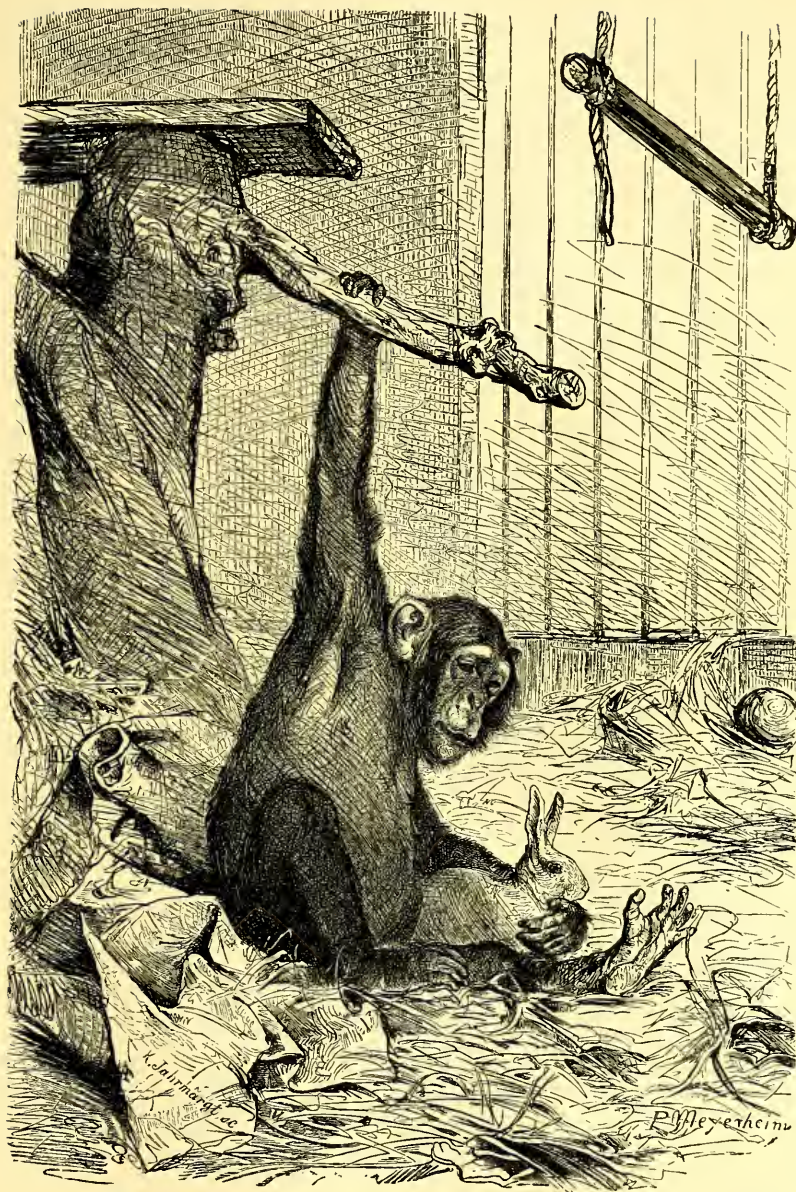


CHIMPANZEE.

(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, 68.)

captivity, we are told that at first he refused meat, but by and by he became accustomed to it and soon took the same food as man.

Chimpanzees in captivity are easily accustomed to imitate human society. They sit at the table like men, use spoons and even knives and forks. They also are easily accustomed to alcoholic drinks and exhibit the same symptoms as man if they take too much. We are told that once a mirror was handed to a chimpanzee who appeared suddenly as if struck with awe. After a state of greatest agility he became extremely thoughtful. He looked up



CHIMPANZEE.
(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, facing p. 68.)

to his trainer as if questioning him as to what the strange object could be. He then investigated the mirror, touched it with his hands, looked behind it, and behaved in quite the same manner as



YOUNG CHIMPANZEE.

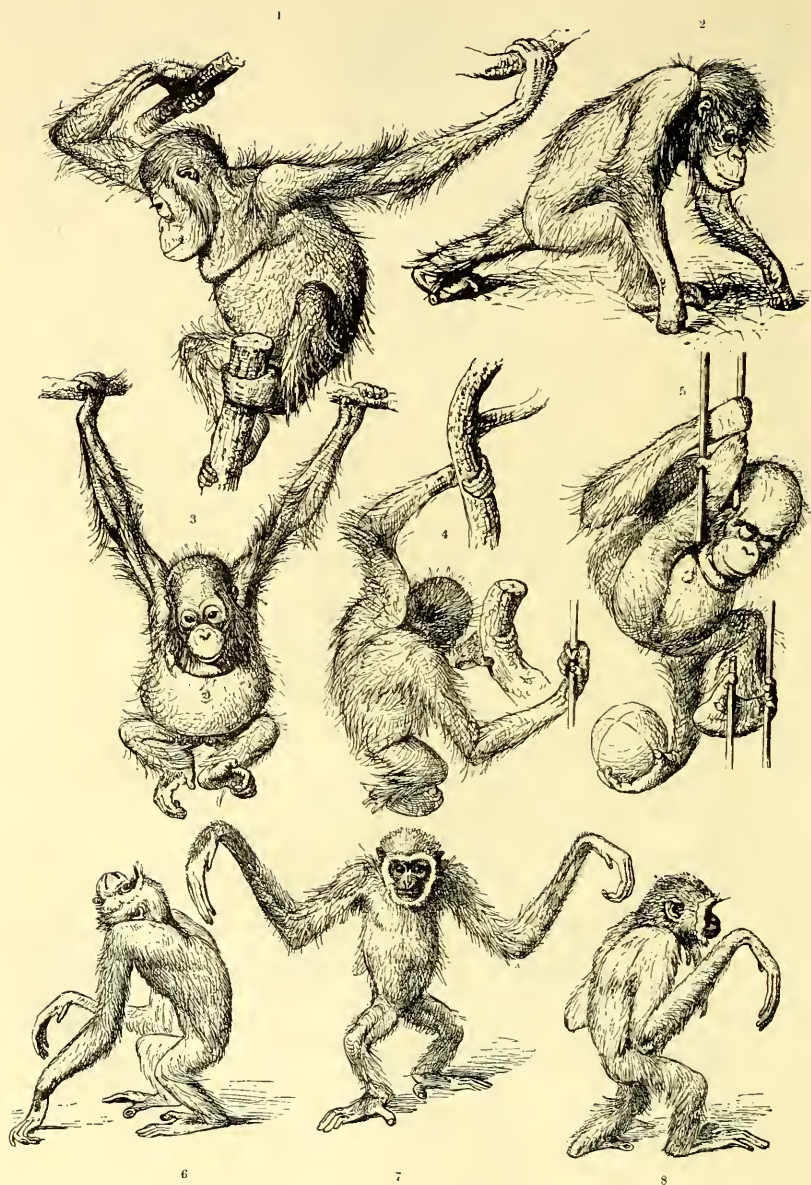
Photograph from life by Dr. Heck of Berlin. (*Weltall u. Menschheit*, II, 171.)

do savages when they see reflected pictures in a mirror for the first time.

The natives of Africa agree in regarding the anthropoid apes



POSTURES OF VARIOUS MAN-APES.
(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, p. 46.)

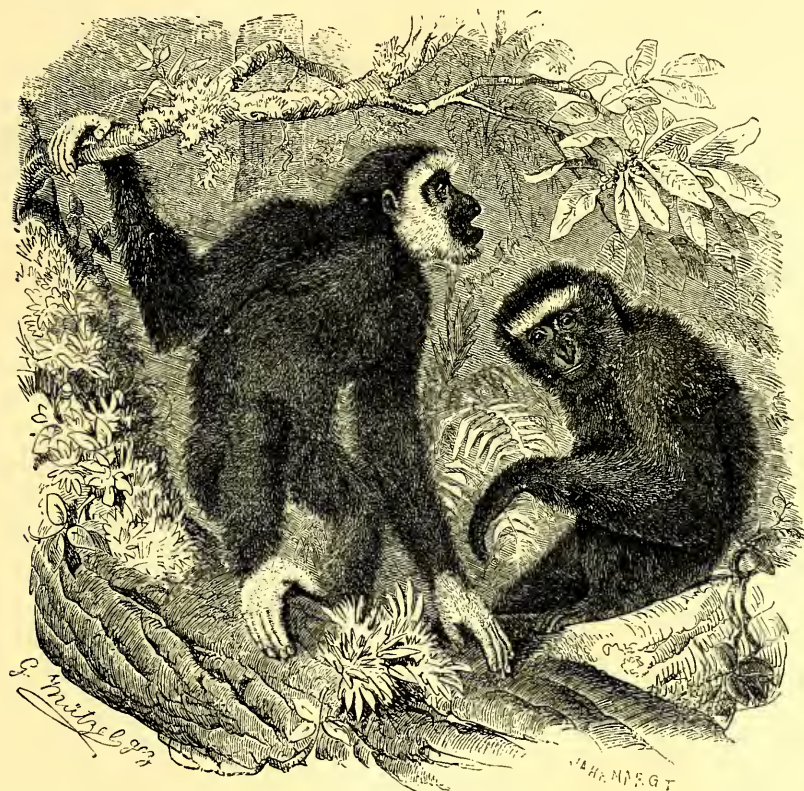


POSTURES OF VARIOUS MAN-APES.

(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, p. 47.)

as a low class of human beings, and are firmly convinced that they only pretend not to be able to speak, for the purpose of shirking work. They say that if they were found out, many would certainly keep them as slaves and deprive them of their happy liberty in the forests.

Most assuredly the anthropoid apes may seem happier abroad and certainly they are accustomed to their liberty. But it would



LAR AND HULLOCK.

After Hanhart. (Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, p. 94.)

be a grave mistake to think that they have an easy and pleasant life. They have to make their living as much as any other animal, and it appears that they have a very hard time of it. Being vegetarians they need a greater mass of food than if they were carnivorous, and it is not impossible that the man-ape who rose to the higher existence of an ape-man and finally to that of man, had one great advantage over his less fortunate cousins by changing his diet. The

anthropoid apes have to put in all their time in hunting for food and eating it, while the omniverous ape-man gained more leisure and moreover had his wits sharpened by becoming a hunter.

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To the anthropologist the lower apes are less interesting, but we may mention especially the long-armed monkeys or *hylobates*, among whom the gibbon is perhaps the most noteworthy. Others of interest on account of their quaint appearance and habits are

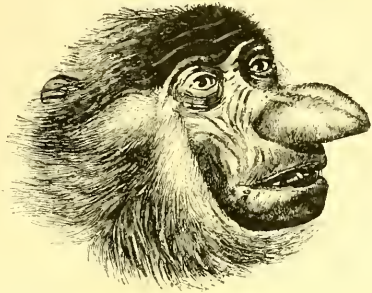


PROBOSCIS MONKEY.

(Brehm's *Thierleben*, I, p. 110.)

the hullock and the proboscis-monkey. The latter does not range very high, but should be mentioned in this connection on account of the human appearance of his profile, due solely to the development of his nose which however might rather be called a proboscis. His similarity to man is more apparent than real, for his nose unlike that of man is movable; it can be pushed out and pulled back, but if extended to its full length, it closely resembles a very strongly developed aquiline nose.

One important similarity between man and ape is the development of the teeth. Both have 8 incisors, 4 canine teeth and 20 molars; yet it is well known that in the higher races, the hindmost molars grow at a mature age and are generally subject to early decay. It seems as if the development of the brain implied a decrease in the organs of mastication. The jaw bones grow smaller and the facial angle approaches more and more nearly to 90° .



HEAD OF PROBOSCIS MONKEY.

After Brehm.

(Haeckel's *Anthropogenie*, p. 607.)

After Wiedersheim.

(*Weltall und Menschheit*, II, 145.)

The similarity between human and Simian teeth, however, is limited to the apes of the old world. Those of America possess thirty-six teeth in all, and preserve more the features of the lower mammals in this as well as in other particulars. Their noses, too, are turned upward, while the noses of the Old World apes all go downward. Hence their name, Catarrhines, derived from the Greek *katá* "downward," and *rhinós*, "nose."