

The Tocci Twins.

[Scientific American.]

Probably the most remarkable of human twins that have ever approached maturity, are known as the brothers Giovanni and Giacomo Tocci. They were born on July 4, 1875, their mother being nineteen years old. Their mother's maiden name was Antonia Mezzano. Their birthplace was Locana, Turin, Italy. The same mother has had nine children, all strong and well. The twins are connected from the sixth rib downward, and have but one pair of legs and a single abdomen. The spinal columns are distinct until the lumbar region is reached. There they unite at an angle of 130 degrees. The sacrum seems to be a single bone. They have two distinct stomachs, hearts, and pairs of lungs. The arterial and respiratory systems are quite distinct; the heart beats and breathing differing often in the two individuals. At the age of thirty days they weighed eight pounds, and in the next thirty-one days gained nearly three pounds.

Their lives are distinct. They have regions of common sensibility, and of purely individual sensation. One often sleeps when the other wakes. There is no direct correspondence of their appetites. One may be hungry while the other is fast asleep.

In their general appearance there is nothing repulsive. They have bright, intelligent faces, not of the peculiar cast common to cripples. They are educated and write their names as souvenirs for visitors.

They are able to stand, but have not yet succeeded in walking, as each leg is governed by its own brain. The want of correspondence has proved fatal to any attempts in this direction. They can stand quietly, so that it is only a question of strength. At their home they spend much of their time on the floor, using their inner arms for the most part, crawling and tumbling about and thus getting a certain amount of exercise. They can dress and undress themselves. Giovanni, drinks beer in considerable quantities, whilst Giacomo, not liking beer, drinks mineral water. Giovanni is quite fond of sketching and draws with some spirit. He rest the book or paper on his knee. Sometimes his brother, who is more of a talker and more voluble in disposition, finding some fault with the drawing, will kick the drawing off his knee. All this in good part, for they live on excellent terms with each other, and seem unconscious of any misfortune in their condition.

They are disconnected as regards illness. Quite recently one of them had a cold, while the other was suffering from a bilious attack.

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