

Paresis [Gr. *πάρεσις*, a letting go, paralysis]: Ger. *Parese*; Fr. *parésie*; Ital. *paresi*. A partial or incomplete degree of PARALYSIS (q. v.); weakness in the use of a limb. (J.S.)

Parietal Organ: Ger. *Scheitelauge*, *Parietal-auge*; Fr. *organe (ou œil) pariétal, pinéal*; Ital. *terzo occhio, occhio pineale*. An eye-like organ found in various vertebrates occupying a special fontanel in the dorsal median line of the skull; called also Parietal Eye, Pineal Gland, and Epiphysis.

The parietal organ is best seen in certain reptiles, in which it may even be functional. It arises as an evagination of the epiphysis (cf. BRAIN). The eye develops a retina and lens, and is connected with the roof of the diencephalon by the parietal nerve. The epiphysis itself seems to sustain much the same relation to the parietal eye that the optic evaginations do to the paired eyes. Authors are as yet not agreed as to the origin of the parietal eye and its relation to the epiphysis. Several recent authors have found evidence that the epiphysis and the parietal organ were originally paired. Locy especially reports paired rudiments of the epiphysis in selachians, yet this is questioned by the most recent writers (Eycleshymer and Davis, 1897).

Leydig (1872) and Spencer (1886) suspected the sensory character of the organ, and, though one recent author (Rabl-Rückhard) has assigned to it a function connected with the temperature sense, there is every reason to regard the epiphysis and parietal organ as a degenerate visual apparatus. The epiphysis itself is tubular in fishes, vesicular in amphibians, vesicular and glandular in reptiles, and glandular in mammals.

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A. KLINCKOWSTROEM, Beiträge zur Kenntniss des Parietalauges, Zool. Jahrb., vii (1893); F. LEYDIG, Das Parietalorgan, Biol. Centralbl., x (1890); W. A. LOCY, The Optic Vesicles of Elasmobranchs, J. of Morphol., ix (1894); Contribution to the Structure and Development of the Vertebrate Head, J. of Morphol., xi (1895); MAGGI, Il terzo occhio nei Vertebrati, Riv. di Filos. Scient. (1890); PH. OWSJANNIKOW, Uebersicht der Untersuchungen über das Parietalauge, &c., Rev. d. Sci. Nat. St. Pétersbourg; A. D. SORENSEN, Comparative Study of the Epiphysis, &c., J. of Compar. Neurol., iv (1894); W. B. SPENCER, On the Presence and Structure of the Parietal Eye in Lacertilia, Quart. J. Microsc. Sci., xxvii (1886); F. C. STUDNICKA, Bull. de la Soc. Roy. de Sci. de Bohême (1893). (H.H.)

Parity [Lat. *paritas*, from *par*, equal]: Ger. *Gleichheit*; Fr. *parité*; Ital. *parità*. Equivalent to equality. *Parity of reasoning* is the precise analogy of two arguments both in their nature and in their force. (C.S.P.)

Parousia [Gr. *παρίσσειν*, to be present]: Ger. *Parusie*; Fr. *parousie*; Ital. *parusia*. (1) A semi-technical term used by Plato to express relationship between absolute being or essence and the sensible world. It is closely allied to his more specifically technical terms participation (*μέθεξις*) and community (*κοινωνία*). The world of sense has essence and existence only through the presence of the good in it (*Politics*, 509).

(2) It is employed as a technical term by Plotinus to express the relation of soul and body. The soul is not present in the body, but is rather present to it. More strictly, Plotinus says the body is present to the soul. Through this relation, sentience and vitality are rendered to the body. By parousia the soul thoroughly animates and permeates the body without getting in any way entangled with it (*Plotinus, Enneads*, vi. 4, 12).

(3) The term is used in early Christian thought to express the relation of the Holy Spirit to the individual and the Church. It is a matter of dispute whether this use is influenced by the technical philosophical discussions. (J.D.)

Paroxysm [Gr. *παροξυσμός*, irritation]: Ger. *Paroxismus*; Fr. *paroxysme*; Ital. *parossismo*. A sudden, violent, or spasmodic attack or exacerbation of a disease, or a group of symptoms.

The attacks of epilepsy, of hysteria, of mania, and other mental diseases are frequently of a paroxysmal character. The term

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