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OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
PROJECT ICECAVE

AUTOPSY REPORT

***Note**: The following document is a reproduction of an original filed under Project Covenant, Dec 1929 (ONI-CVT#45) with an attachment summarising more recent analyses conducted by this office.*

Subject: Creature CVT-01
Date of Birth: Unknown
Date of Death: Dec 5 1929
Place of Death: Innsmouth, MA
Occupation: n/a

External Examination:

Body of an unknown creature of approximately humanoid appearance. Height 5'11", weight 175 lbs. The body exudes a distinct 'fishy' odour. The skin is pallid and covered in small cycloid scales of a bluish-green colour, being significantly paler in the abdominal area.

The head is domed and bears four bony spines medially along the crown, raked towards the dorsal surface and connected by a thin membrane at the base. Each spine measures approximately 2 inches. The eyes are wide-set and exophthalmic, without eyelids but covered by a tough transparent membrane. There is no external ear, although auditory canals are identified. The nostrils are flat to the face and each possess a muscular sphincter. The mouth is wide, giving the prominent jaw a batrachian appearance. 34 teeth are identified, all sharp and conical. No tongue is present.

The neck is thick and muscular. At its upper margin are three gill slits, each approximately 3 inches long. A soft-rayed fin lies on the superior surface of each gill-slit.

The torso bears arms and legs with an approximately humanoid articulation. The left arm terminates just above the elbow joint in a ragged injury. The right arm terminates in hand a bearing three fingers and an opposable thumb. The digits are webbed, with the membrane stretching almost to the tips. Each digit bears a sharp, horny claw. The legs are digitigrade and terminate in three elongate toes with webbing and claws similar to those on the surviving hand.

No nipples are present on the torso. There are no genitals visible externally, but a small vertical slit is identified in the inguinal area. Probing the slit reveals a fleshy pouch containing an intromittent organ.

Radiographic Examination:

The skeleton is generally humanoid, and reflects the bodily morphology noted above. A dermal bone lies along the superior edge of each gill slit. The ribs are thickened and dorso-ventrally flattened. The pisiform bone is absent from the hand, and the triquetal bone is vestigial only. There are no cuboid bones in the tarsi.

Internal Examination:

Muscular dissection: The muscular arrangement is generally similar to that found in humans. There is enlargement of the deltoid and pectoralis muscles. There is a reduction in the number of tendons and muscles of the hand and feet associated with the reduced number of digits.

Cardiovascular system: The heart weighs 12 ounces, and appears similar to a human heart.

Respiratory system: The lungs together weight 2lbs 7 oz, and appear similar to human lungs. The larynx and epiglottis are relatively large. Each gill slit is lined on both sides internally by feathery pink gills supported by cartilaginous gill rays, and opens into the enlarged muscular pharynx.

Digestive system: The stomach contains partially digested fish, and lacks a distinct fundus. There is no distinct small intestine, caecum or appendix, and the bowel is only partially coiled in the abdominal cavity. Opening the bowel reveals a spiral structure, with a fleshy septum twisting through several turns and

running from the pyloric valve to within four inches of the anus. The liver extends further down into the abdominal cavity than in humans, but the left lobe is significantly reduced, so that the overall volume is unaffected. The gall bladder and pancreas appear similar to those in humans.

Lymphatic system: The lymphatic system and spleen are generally similar to those in humans.

Central nervous system: The frontal lobes are greatly reduced in comparison with humans, and the cerebrum is flatter and less highly folded. The hypothalamus is relatively enlarged, forming visible paired lobes on the lower surface of the brain. Posterior to the optic chiasma is a thin-walled vesicle one third of an inch across. The cerebellum, brain stem and spinal cord are similar to those in humans.

Genito-urinary system: The kidneys are elongated and multilobate, with a single central ureteric duct running throughout most of their length. The kidneys together weigh 10 ounces. The bladder is divided into two lobes. The urethra opens into a fleshy pouch located anteriorly and between the legs. The testes are abdominal and elongated, running along the lateral surfaces of the kidneys. No epididymis, prostate, seminal vesicles or bulbourethral gland are identified. The vasa deferentia pass into an erectile intromittent organ on the anterior aspect of the pouch, which is also line with erectile tissue.

Endocrine system: Multiple patches of adrenal tissue are located on the upper surfaces of the kidneys, but no discrete adrenal glands are identified. The thyroid gland is ragged and irregular in shape. A glandular structure is identified within the sacrum, surrounding the terminus of the spinal cord. The pituitary and parathyroid glands appear similar to those in humans.

Conclusions

The creature appears to be an advanced vertebrate, sharing features of mammalian and piscine anatomy. Notably, the structure of the large intestine, kidneys, thyroid and testes are all similar to those of bony fish, while the presence of lungs and parathyroid glands and the structure of the brain are distinctly mammalian. With both functional lungs and gills, it must be presumed to be equally at home on land and underwater. The function of the vesicle within the brain and of the glandular structure at the base of the spinal cord is unknown, but it is noted that similar structures (the saccus vasculosus and urophysis, respectively) are also found in many fish. The brain is sufficiently large and complex that the organism might be expected to have an intelligence similar to an advanced mammal, such as a horse.

Ia Cardiac arrest
Ib Trauma

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Attachment

Unlike fish, the creature appears to reproduce by internal fertilisation. Dissection of the partial body (only the lower torso was sufficiently intact to allow examination) of a female specimen revealed the presence of a muscular vagina consistent with this hypothesis. However, no uterus was identified, with the fallopian tubes opening directly into the vertex of the vagina. The ovaries were large and contained a number of eggs similar in appearance to those found in bony fish. Because of the concealed nature of the genital organs, differentiation between the sexes would be almost impossible on external features alone.
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