



<http://www.auvergnat.com/archivillages/saintsernininsurance.htm>

http://www.silapedagogie.com/jean_itard.htm

The border between "human" and "non-human."



- He was a "disgustingly dirty child affected with spasmodic movements and often convulsions who swayed back and forth ceaselessly like certain animals in the menagerie, who bit and scratched those who opposed him, who showed no sort of affection . . ." (5).



The border between "human" and "non-human."



- "He had an insurmountable aversion to society . . ." (6).
- "a child of nature" (11 ff)

Jean-Marc-Gaspard Itard: opening statement



"Cast upon this globe without physical strength or innate ideas . . ., it is only in the heart of society that man can attain the pre-eminent position which is his natural destiny. Without the aid of civilization he would be one of the feeblest and least intelligent of animals . . ." (3).

"[M]an is only what he is made" (3).

Sensibility



- "2. a. Power of sensation or perception; the specific function of any of the organs of sense (obs.). Now often, the (greater or less) readiness of an organ or tissue to respond to sensory stimuli; sensitiveness" (*OED*).
- Sensibility is a fundamental capacity, dependent on brain and nerves, for reception of, and responsiveness to, the world. Education depends on sensation or the "exercise" of sensibility.

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/Frank/Gifs/hermes.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/Frank/Gifs/hermes.html&h=440&w=252&sz=60&tid=olVNwu72GzEJ.&bnh=122&bmw=70&start=1&prev=images%3Fq%3DCristopher%2BWren%2BThomas%2BWillis%26n%3Den%26r%3D%26sa%3DG>

Sensibility

- "... a sensibility accidentally dulled" (7).
- "2nd Aim. To awaken his nervous sensibility" (8)
- "those sympathetic relations which form an integral part of our sensibility" (10)
- "sensibility in the organ"; "nervous sensibility"; (10)
- "exquisite sensibility" "a certain degree of sensibility of the auditory nerve is sufficient" (16)



<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/Frank/Gifs/nerves.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/Frank/Gifs/nerves.html&h=440&w=252&sz=60&tbnid=olVNwu72GzEJ:&tbnh=122&tbnw=70&start=1&prev=/images%3Fq%3DChristopher%2BWren%2BThomas%2BWillis%26h%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DG>

Why sensibility is a key concept in Itard's project



- It is important in understanding physiology, psychology, and cognition.

Sensibility

- "an extreme flexibility and sensibility of all organs" (17)
- "blunt the nervous sensibility" (26)
- "any evidence of sensibility" (28)
- "I had at my disposition only a modicum of sensibility" (29)
- "sight, the most important channel of this sensibility" (29)



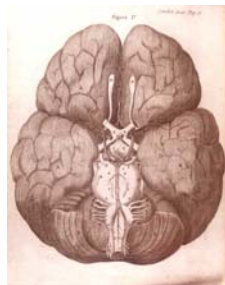
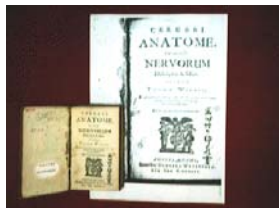
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Why sensibility is a key concept in Itard's project (2)



- Itard's project is both scientific and humanitarian.
 - It invites both curiosity and sympathy.

Thomas Willis, Anatomy of Brain and Nerves



http://clendening.kumc.edu/dc/rti/human_body_1682_willis01.jpg

Itard's goals (8 ff)

- To interest him in social life . . .

Itard's goals (10ff.)

- To awaken his nervous sensibility

Itard's goals (21ff.)

- To make him exercise the simplest mental operations upon the objects of his physical needs . . .

Itard's goals (13 ff.)

- To extend the range of his ideas

The second report

- Tone: "‘Unhappy creature,’ I cried . . ." (37).

Itard's goals (15 ff.)

- To lead him to the use of speech

The second report (cont)

- Creeping painfully and retracing our steps (42)

In light of Itard's project, what can be said about family and state?

- Setting up the experiment . . .

To what extent does Itard's experiment render Victor human?

- A sense of justice . . .