

PHRENOLOGY

It was a failed notion but a lovely one:
by measuring the bumps on the skull
you could find the bulked muscles
of the brain; there was once
a machine with spring-loaded
probes that made a map
of the mind. I have seen the drawings
from this era, the sculpted,
diagramed skulls. Each head had its own
topography like a planet; a large lump
at the back meant you were
designed for motherhood, while a lump
at the front gave you an appreciation
of beauty. Destructiveness lurked
above the ear, while delight in life
was tucked behind. Hope was on top,
between perseverance
and spirituality, just above a love
of the magnificent.