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doubt about its belonging to the same individual—it seems not improbable that the individual had a scoliosis, *i.e.*, a curvature of the spine, in which case deformities of the skull are very often associated with the deformity of the spinal column. This hypothesis, I think, is at least equally probable as the cradle-hypothesis.”

The CHAIRMAN, in commenting on these communications, remarked that as to the ancient Britons being a nomadic people that must be taken in a limited sense, for there could have been but few open spaces, and, although we were told of their careering in war chariots, such operations must have been extremely confined. With regard to the skulls, it was certainly doubtful if the particular formation noticed were produced by having been put in childhood to rest upon some hard unyielding substance as was done with Indian children for facility of carriage. But the subject had better, perhaps, be discussed after Dr. Thurnam, who had come from Devizes for the purpose, had read his paper upon ancient British skulls.

The following paper was then read:—

Further Researches and Observations on the Two Principal Forms of Ancient British Skulls. By Dr. J. THURNAM.

[The paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs* of the Society.]

ABSTRACT.

Referring to his former paper (*Memoirs*, vol. i, pp. 120, 459), the author remarked, that the general connexion of the two differing ancient British skull-forms, with two differing forms of tumulus, had appeared to him sufficiently curious to be summed up in a convenient antithetic formula, thus,—*long barrows, long skulls; round barrows, round or short skulls.* At the same time, he was quite aware of apparent exceptions to this proposition, and was fully prepared for greater ones than had then been observed. As to the round barrows, he had expressly stated, that it was “evident that, unless the earlier race had been suddenly exterminated by the succeeding one, a mixture of interments and a mixture of the two types were to have been expected” (p. 128, also p. 150). It is for the first part of his proposition, or *long barrows, long skulls*, that the author makes any claim, as an original observer. He believes that he has established for that part of England to which his researches apply, *viz.*, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, the connexion between long barrows and dolichocephalic skulls. He has now opened more than twenty of these remarkable grave-mounds, and in not one of them has he found, in the primary place of interment, a brachycephalic skull. As to the second part of the proposition, or *round barrows, round skulls*, he had formulated the common experience of British craniologists, all of whom had maintained that the prevailing ancient British skull-type, and consequently that of the round barrows, is brachycephalous.

Dr. Thurnam exhibited a table of measurements of seventy skulls from the round barrows, twenty-five of which are engraved and described in *Crania Britannica*, forty-one are in the Bateman Museum,

and four are in his own collection, having been exhumed by himself. When these seventy skulls are arranged according to their breadth-index, 63 per cent. are found to be brachycephalic ($\cdot 80\text{--}\cdot 89$); 20 per cent. sub-brachycephalic ($\cdot 77\text{--}\cdot 79$); and 17 per cent. only are ovoid or orthocephalic ($\cdot 74\text{--}\cdot 76$). Not a single skull is sub-dolichocephalic ($\cdot 71\text{--}\cdot 73$), much less typically dolichocephalic (— $\cdot 70$). The average breadth-index for the entire series of seventy skulls is $\cdot 81$. These round barrow skulls are indeed as brachycephalous as those of modern Germans, Slavonians, and many Mongols. This is well seen on a reference to the extensive measurements recently published by Prof. Welcker, according to which $\cdot 79$ is the mean breadth-index for Little Russians and Finns; $\cdot 80$ that for South Germans, Great Russians and Magyars; and $\cdot 81$ that for the Swiss, Slovaks, Calmucks, and Tungusians.*

The author also produced a table of measurements of sixty-seven skulls from long barrows in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, most of them exhumed by himself or friends, and seventeen of which had been acquired since the publication of his previous paper. A comparison of this table with that of the skulls from the round barrows, shows at once how greatly the one series differs from the other. Among those from the round barrows, is not a single dolichocephalic skull; among those from the long barrows, not a single brachycephalic one. Upwards of four-fifths, or 82 per cent. of the latter, are more or less dolichocephalic ($\cdot 63\text{--}\cdot 73$); nearly one-half, or 48 per cent., typically so ($\cdot 63\text{--}\cdot 70$); a small proportion, only 16·5 per cent., are ovoid or orthocephalic ($\cdot 74\text{--}\cdot 76$); and only 1·5 per cent. represented by a single exceptional skull, is sub-brachycephalous, with a breadth-index of $\cdot 77$. The average breadth-index of the whole is $\cdot 71$. When compared with the skulls of all peoples, these long barrow crania are seen to occupy a remarkable situation. This place is almost on the top of the scale of dolichocephaly and brachycephaly, and alongside that of the skulls of Negroes, Hindoos, and New Caledonians. The sixty-seven long barrow skulls have, indeed, about the same average breadth-index as those of sixty-six African Negroes, and fifteen Australians, measured by Welcker; and if arranged according to the German professor's method (Taf. II, fig. 6), the resulting figure or diagram would be almost identical with that shown by him for the Negroes. In Europe, at the present day, we have *no typical dolichocephali* (*i. e.*, people whose skulls have an average breadth-index of $\cdot 70$ or $\cdot 71$); and we have to search for cranial proportions similar to those of the old long-barrow folk, far away in Africa, India, Australia, and the Melanesian Islands. The face-cranium in the long barrow skulls, however, is remarkable, for the most part, for the mildness of its character, being more orthognathic than that of most modern European peoples, and seems to show unequivocally that there is no genetic or necessary affinity between our ancient British dolichocephali and those modern savage (or in the case of the Hindoos, civilised) peoples of the distant South and East.

* "Archiv für Anthrop.", 1866, pp. 135, 142, etc.

The author inferred the relative date of the two classes of barrows from the archæological evidence. He observed that in no well authenticated instance had objects of metal or of the finer decorated pottery been found with the primary interments in *long barrows*, but only those of stone, bone or horn, and a peculiar coarse kind of pottery. He hence refers the long barrows to the *Stone period* of antiquaries, and believes that they are the earliest sepulchral monuments of the inhabitants of these islands which remain to us.

In the *round barrows*, on the other hand, objects of bronze, (very rarely of iron,) and richly decorated pottery, are often found, with or without objects of stone. The author hence refers the round barrows to the *Bronze period* of antiquaries, and to that of bronze and iron transition. Differing in this respect from the long barrows, a large majority of them cover interments after cremation. In the opinion of the author, they formed the tombs of the later Britons, down to the time of the Roman conquest of the island. In conclusion, Dr. Thurnam presented a summary of his inferences, under nine different heads.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Dr. Thurnam in the name of the meeting for coming so great a distance to read to them his very able and learned paper, and suggested that another paper on the same subject by Mr. Blake should be read before the discussion.

The following paper was then read :—

On Certain Skulls from Round Barrows in Dorsetshire. By C. CARTER BLAKE, Esq., F.G.S., Curator and Lib. A.S.L. [Vide *Anthropological Review*, vol. iv, p. 398.]

[The paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.]

The CHAIRMAN, after thanking Mr. Blake, remarked that Dr. Thurnam's statement that anchylosed vertebræ had been found in the dolichocephali, appeared to him very curious, as it was said to indicate going upon all fours, thus showing a degradation in the race form in the brachycephali.

Mr. L. O. PIKE thought the Society much indebted to Dr. Thurnam and Mr. Blake. They, and men like them, had placed anthropology on a different footing from that on which it had stood in former times. They had left the effete schools of dogmatism and conjecture, and had brought arithmetic, the best friend of the exact sciences, to bear upon the subject. On that score anthropologists owed a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Thurnam. Formerly, if a community were found to speak one language, and another community a somewhat similar language, that fact was thought sufficient to prove the kinship of the two peoples. But it was now known that similarity of tongues was frequently accompanied by great dissimilarity in the shape of the skull, and if race meant anything we must assign the different forms of the skull to different races. The principle of classifying races by language would, if fairly carried out, prove a parrot which could say "Good morning," to be more nearly akin to an Englishman than an