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[Exhibition of the Cranium of a Native of the Fiji Islands]

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From the ACADEMY.—Atti della R. Accademia dei Lincei. Vol. III, Nos. 1 and 2.

From the AUTHOR.—The Evil Eye. By M. Elie Reclus.

From the EDITOR.—Revue Scientifique, Nos. 30–32, 1879.

From the EDITOR.—“Nature” (to date).

Professor FLOWER, F.R.S., exhibited the cranium of a native of one of the Fiji Islands, affected to an extreme degree with scaphocephaly, associated with complete parietal synostosis. It was brought direct from Ovalau and presented to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, by Mr. Alfred Corrie, Surgeon R.N. With the exception of the sagittal, all the sutures of the cranium that are usually open in a person somewhat below the middle age are quite free. There are several large and complex Wormian bones in the lambdoidal suture. The length of the cranium is 214 millimetres, or 8·4 inches. The frontal region is elevated, protuberant, and comparatively wide, the greatest transverse diameter of the upper part of the cranium being situated between the temporal ridges, about midway between the external orbital processes of the frontals and the stephanion. Here it attains 116 mm. From this point it gradually diminishes backwards, the width of the parietals immediately above the middle of the squamosal suture being only 112, which is the greatest diameter to be found on these bones, except just at the inferior posterior angles. This breadth, as compared to the total length, gives an index of 524. The asteriac width is 103, the biauricular 114, and that between the supramastoid ridges, the greatest transverse diameter of the cranium proper, is 125. The interzygomatic diameter is 133. The length of the cranial arc from the nasion to the opisthion is 430, of which the frontal occupies 135, the parietal 152, and the occipital 143. The length of the foramen magnum is 37, and that from the basion to the nasion 109. The cranium is apparently that of a male and has a considerable capacity, viz., 1620 cubic centimetres.

As is well known, the Fijians belong mainly to the Melanesian or Papuan race, but there is a considerable mixture, especially in the coast districts, of Polynesian. In the present skull the special characteristics of the race are so disguised by the deformity that it is difficult to assign its proper position, but the high orbital index (950) and the moderate width of the nose (index 50) and slight prognathism incline rather to the Polynesian type.

For figures and descriptions of similar skulls in other races, Prof. Flower referred to Dr. Barnard Davis's Memoir “On Synostotic Crania among Aboriginal Races of Man,” Haarlem, 1868; to a paper “On the Scaphoid Skull of a Pole,” by Dr. Koper-

nicki, in the Journal of this Institute, vol. vi. (1877), p. 181; and to one by Professor Turner, in the "Natural History Review," January, 1864, in all of which references to the previous literature of the subject are to be found.

Mr. A. L. LEWIS exhibited and described a series of photographs from Australia and a small collection of native implements.

The following papers were read:—"Customs of Australian Aborigines." By Captain WILLIAM E. ARMIT, F.L.S. "Austrian Aborigines." By D. MACALLISTER, Esq. Abstracts of these communications will appear in due course.

FEBRUARY 25TH, 1879.

JOHN EVANS, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following presents were announced, and thanks were ordered to be returned to the respective donors for the same:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Royal Society, Vol. XXVIII, No. 192.

From the EDITOR.—Revue Internationale des Sciences, No. 2, 1879.

From the ACADEMY.—Bulletin de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St. Petersburg, Vol. XXV, No. 3.

From the EDITOR.—Revue Scientifique, Nos. 33 and 34, 1879.

From the AUTHOR.—Some Early Notices of the Indians of Ohio.  
By M. F. Force.

From the EDITOR.—"Nature" (to date).

The following paper was read by the Director:—

*The PRIMITIVE HUMAN FAMILY.* By C. STANILAND WAKE, Esq.,  
M.A.I.

MR. MACLENNAN has remarked, in relation to the curious custom of capturing women for wives found among peoples in all parts of the world, that "in almost all cases the form of capture is the symbol of a group act, of a siege or a pitched battle, or an invasion of a house by an armed band, while in a few cases only, and these much disintegrated, it represents a capture by an individual. On the one side are the kindred of