Notice of a Skull from Ashantee, and Supposed to be that of a Chief or Superior Officer
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- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Royal Society. Vol. xxii, No. 150.
- From the AUTHOR.—Relation of Education to Insanity; Infant Mortality. By Dr. Edward Jarvis.
- From Dr. EDWARD JARVIS.—Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Health of Massachusetts.
- From OLIVER WARNER, Esq.—Thirteen Registration Reports for 1871. Massachusetts.
- From the EDITOR.—Revue Scientifique, Nos. 37 and 38. 1874.
- From LORD ARTHUR RUSSELL, M.P.—Polynesian Labourers in Queensland; Papers relating to the Fiji Islands; The Deportation of South Sea Islanders; Return—South Sea Islands, June 1873; Correspondence between the Government of New South Wales and the Earl of Kimberley; Measures taken to prevent the fitting out of Ships at Hong Kong for the Macao Coolie Trade; Despatches from Dr. Livingstone, H.M. Consul to H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1870-1-2; The Cession of the Dutch Settlements on the West Coast of Africa, February 1872; Revenue and Expenditure of the British West African Settlements, Jan. 1871-2-3; Papers relating to the Fanti Confederation (Cape Coast) April 1873; Return—Gold Coast, Parts 1 and 2, June 1873; Gold Coast Despatches from Governor J. Pope Hennessy, July 1873; The Ashantee Invasion and attack on Elmina, July 1873; Further correspondence respecting the Ashantee Invasion, July 1873.
- From the SOCIETY.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Part i, No. 3; Proceedings do. Nos. 9 and 10, 1873.
- From the ASSOCIATION.—Transactions of the Social Science Association, 1873.
- From the SOCIETY.—Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. Vol. xiii, 1872-3.
- From the ASSOCIATION.—Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland. Vol. ii, No. 16.
- From the EDITOR.—Nature (to date).

The following papers were read by their respective authors :

NOTICE of a SKULL from ASHANTEE, and supposed to be that of a CHIEF or SUPERIOR OFFICER. By GEO. BUSK, F.R.S., Pres. An. Inst. [With Plate v.]

THE skull which is now exhibited was brought to England by Surgeon-Major Gore, who has furnished the following particulars as to the circumstances under which he procured it. Mr. Gore states that: "When returning from following up the trail of the Ashantee army on the morning of the 26th November, 1873, we surprised an outlying camp of the enemy, which had been de-

ASHANTEE.
Dr Gore.

C.F. Kell Lith. Castle St. London E.C.

served in such a hurry that the occupants left behind them their arms and ammunition, together with some gold dust, a goldsmith's weighing machine, etc. This camp, a portion of a much larger one, was close to Anafroom, six miles north of Mansee. In a box in one of the camp huts the bones were lying—skull with jaw, long bones of arm, fore arm, thigh, and leg. They were all beautifully cleaned by a process unknown to us. I only brought away the skull and jaw as being of the greatest interest. The whole of the bones were neatly packed together.”

With reference to a suggestion that I had thrown out that the skull might possibly be that of a female, Mr. Gore remarks that he never heard of the Ashantees carrying about the bones of women. The latter, in fact, he says, occupy such an inferior position that he can scarcely believe the Ashantees would take any trouble as to what became of their remains. They do, however, he states, preserve the bones of their chiefs, a fact that, according to him, is well known. Nothing, however, is known as to their method of preserving. Chiefs and captains are only buried during the progress of a war. Sometimes they are carried back in baskets, and at other times placed upon biers, where they remain until the soft parts decay away. As a rule, they pack up the remains of their chiefs upon the return of the army, carrying them ultimately to Coomassie. Mr. Gore has heard it stated that the flesh is removed from the bones with a knife, after which they are dried in the sun.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SKULL.

The skull is that of a young person who has not very long cut the three molars in both jaws. The other remaining teeth are quite unworn—well developed, but not large. Only six teeth (all molars but one) remain, but the alveoli of those that are gone are quite perfect, so that it is probable they have fallen out since death. They are all perfectly sound. In condition the skull has all the aspect of one that had been carefully macerated and cleaned by a skilled preparer of bones. It is perfectly symmetrical, and of what might be termed delicate formation. The bones are unusually thin, especially for a negro, and all the sutures are quite unclosed—a circumstance, more especially as regards the sagittal suture, worthy of notice in the negro race. It was this delicacy of structure, together with the comparatively small size, that led me to conjecture that possibly the skull might be that of a female. Weak and delicate, however, as it may be for a negro skull, the muscular impressions are well marked and vigorous, and there is no actual reason for supposing it not to be that of a man. He could not, however, have been a very powerful individual, and was very young—two cir-

cumstances rather opposed to the notion that he had been a military leader among savage troops, in whose commanders either age or personal prowess, we might suppose, would be demanded. We may suppose, however, that the rank of the individual may have given him an importance, independent of his personal qualifications as a warrior. The lower jaw, it is to be remarked, is rather thick and clumsy.

1. *Norma Verticalis*.—Frontal outline vertical but low, then curving evenly to the highest point, which is about an inch behind the *bregma*. The line then curves gently to the occipital spine. Subinial portion of the occipital nearly horizontal. The condyles very prominent, appearing below the mastoid processes. The squamosal suture rises very high in the middle. Zygoma rather slender. Auditory opening large. The sphenoparietal suture about half an inch in length. Temporal line strongly developed in front.

2. *Norma facialis*.—Frontal sinuses faintly but distinctly marked; glabella somewhat prominent. Orbits rounded, measuring 1.6 by 1.4. Nasals rather prominent, forming a median keel; deeply notched at the lower end. Nasal orifice pyriform, with a bifid apex. Canine fossæ deep for so young a subject. The lower border of the orbits is thick and rounded; the upper less so, but not thin. The malar bone is thicker than usual. Alveolar border prognathous, and from the direction of the sockets the incisors would have projected considerably.

3. *Norma occipitalis*.—Outline somewhat ogival, the points of greatest width at about the level of the orbit, and two inches behind the vertical line. No *ossa triquetra* in the lambdoidal suture.

4. *N. verticalis*.—Very slightly phænozygous, and the alveolar border just visible; nasals not seen. Outline evenly oval, slightly expanded on the sides of the frontal, owing to the prominence of the temporal ridges. Coronal suture quite open, very simple. Sagittal also quite open, simple in the anterior and posterior thirds—deeply serrated in the middle third. Least distance between the temporal lines, 4".3.

5. *N. basalis*.—Alveolar border elliptical. All the teeth have probably been present before death, three molars remaining on either side. Teeth not at all worn, of moderate size, but deeply tuberculated. Palate shallow, palatal process of palatals small. Basi-occipital wide behind, and with strongly marked muscular impressions. Condyles, together with the anterior border of the foramen magnum, very prominent, so that the plane of the foramen is inclined slightly backwards. Vaginal processes strong. Styloids small, mastoid processes rather low, but the digastric fossa is unusually wide and deep. The foramen mag-

DIMENSIONS, CAPACITY, AND PROPORTIONS.

			Ashantee.	Mean of Inter-tro- cal Negro.			Ashantee.	Mean of Inter-tro- cal Negro.
1	Length	.	7.1	7.12	15	Circumference	19.7	19.6
2	Breadth	.	5.2	5.12	16	Longitudinal arc	14.5	14.4
3	Height	.	6.6	5.43	17	Frontal longitudinal arc	5.0	4.96
4	Postorbital width	.	3.7	3.65	18	Parietal "	5.0	4.97
5	Coronal "	.	4.4	4.38	19	Occipital "	4.5	4.4
6	Parietal "	.	4.9	4.94	20	Frontal transverse	11.2	11.4
7	Occipital "	.	4.2	4.14	21	Vertical "	11.9	12.3
8	Zygomatic "	.	4.9	4.93	22	Parietal "	12.9	12.8
9	Frontal radius	.	4.3	4.53	23	Occipital "	12.0	11.0
10	Vertical "	.	4.5	4.54	24	Capacity, C. I. .	82.2	...
11	Parietal "	.	4.7	4.72	25	Brain weight, oz. av.	45.4	...
12	Occipital "	.	3.9	4.15	26	Latitudinal index	.725	.721
13	Maxillary "	.	3.8	4.15	27	Altitudinal "	.788	.765
14	Fronto-nasal "	.	3.3	3.67	28	Gnathic "	0".50	0".52

num measures 1.5 by 1.2. The occipital spine and muscular impressions on the occipital well, but not coarsely, marked.

Annexed are the dimensions, capacity, and proportions of the Ashantee skull. These will suffice to show that it differs in those respects but very little from the average inter-tropical negro skull, according to my own measurements. The principal characteristics would seem to be—1. Its greater altitudinal index or height. 2. The less maxillary and fronto-nasal radii, showing that the face is smaller in proportion than it usually is in the negro. This, however, may in part perhaps be attributed to the youth of the individual.

On the ORIGIN and DEVELOPMENT of the MENTAL FUNCTION in MAN. By DUNBAR ISIDORE HEATH, M.A., Treasurer Anth. Institute.

THE mutual interdependence of all parts of nature, without exception, is the grandest lesson taught to us by science. For a long time Man himself was supposed to stand exceptionally aloof from the mighty realm of all the things outside him. Mind and body, man and nature, the immaterial and the material, the absolute and the variable, the eternal and the perishable, have long been considered as opposite poles of stringent antithesis. Such views, however, are rapidly passing away, it being, in fact, contrary to experience that one pole can be known without the other. The positive philosophy is the philosophy of experience, and it is prevailing.

Two conceptions in particular have, I think, done more than others towards the introduction of the idea of one grand unity including man and nature. One is that of the universal æther, man enveloping and nature enveloping. The other is that of the absolute constancy of the total amount of energy and work in the universe. The theory of a boundless æther, susceptible of vibrations and tensions, which it is also capable of propagating throughout all space, is by this time tolerably well understood, and it is very generally believed that such an æther exists. It is also becoming popularly realised that not only a vast number of inorganic phenomena which depend in any way on light, electricity, or magnetism, but even many of organic sort, such as man's sensation of colour, his hearing of sounds, his smelling of smells, his tasting of tastes, and his feeling of the shapes of things, are all connected with the motions and tensions of atmospheres, vapours, or gases, embosomed in this stupendous instrument, the cosmical æther.

For the purposes of this paper, however—viz., for the study of the mental function in man—it will be sufficient to take into