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*Description of a Skull from an ANCIENT BURYING PLACE in
KAMTCHATKA.*

BY ALEXANDER MACALISTER, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of
Anatomy in the University of Cambridge.

THROUGH the kindness of Dr. Guillemard, I have received for the Cambridge Museum an interesting skull from Kamtchatka, obtained by him in 1882, on his visit to that country, with Mr. Kettlewell, in the yacht "Marchesa."

This skull had been washed out of an ancient burying-place during a freshet of one of the torrents flowing on the slopes of the Klutschewsk Volcano, and was picked up by a Russian medical man who presented it to Dr. Guillemard.

Comparatively few Kamtchadale skulls have been described, and this is peculiar in many respects. It is that of a female adult and has very loose coronal and squamous sutures, while the two parietals are completely united by a synostosis of the sagittal suture. In capacity the head is microcephalic. In shape it is tapeino-mesaticephalic, very slightly prognathous, megaseme and leptorhine.

The measurements are subjoined—

Capacity, estimated with shot	..	..	..	1290 ccm.
Greatest length, ophryo-occipital	..	..	..	174
„ breadth, interparietal	..	..	..	134
„ height, basio-bregmatic	..	..	..	130
Basi-nasal line	..	..	..	93.5
Basi-alveolar line	..	..	..	97
Orbital height	..	..	..	34
Orbital width..	..	..	..	37
Nasal height	..	..	..	42
Nasal width	..	..	..	20
Diameter between pterion and pterion	..	..	..	108
„ „ stephanion and stephanion	..	..	..	110
„ „ asterion and asterion	..	..	..	105
Length from opisthion to glabella	..	..	..	132
Minimum interorbital width	..	..	..	22
Facial breadth, at zygomatic point of maxilla	..	..	..	91
„ „ at external angular process	..	..	..	97
„ „ maximum bijugal	..	..	..	114
Height of posterior nares	..	..	..	18
Greatest width between the internal pterygoid plates	..	..	..	27

INDICES.

Height index	..	747	Breadth index	..	770
Orbital	„	919	Nasal	„	476
Alveolar	„	1032			

Of other peculiarities the following are noteworthy. There is a very "capsular" occiput, and the skull in *norma verticalis*, is pentagonal, ill-filled. The frontal bone is flat browed with a short trace of a frontal suture, a supraorbital hole on each side. A transverse green band of staining crosses the bone above the frontal eminences from stephanion to stephanion, as if the skull had been crossed by a copper band. The interorbital part of the frontal is singularly flat.

The union of the two parietals is nearly perfect, a slight superficial trace of the sagittal suture above the lambda being its only relic. There are two parietal foramina, one on each side, and a spheno-parietal suture of 9 mm. on each side.

The occiput has two large holes worn in its supra-occipital portions on each side of, and behind the foramen magnum, each nearly as big as the foramen. The condyles are worn, as if ground off, so is the prominent jugular process, and the small mastoid process of the temporal.

The posterior nares are particularly small and oblique. The palate is long, medially ridged.

The only remaining teeth are the first and second molars of the right side which are much worn; the others have fallen out.

We have not much information as to the race characters of the inhabitants of N.E. Asia. The available sources known to me are from the records of Capt. Cook's last voyage, Kennan's "Tent-life in Siberia," and Rettich's "Ethnographie Russland." From these we gather that the inhabitants of the Peninsula are of three tribes: to the north are the Tschukches, supposed to number about 7,000, a brachycephalic race with oval faces, prominent occiputs, and projecting brows. In the middle region, south of Cape Pokatchanik, the inhabitants are Koriaks (*Kora* = reindeer) a smaller but still broad-headed people, with large heads and mesoseme orbits. To the south of these live the true Kamtchadales, a people quite distinct from their neighbours, who call themselves Itelm, (= the people) and disown the nickname Kamtschale (= dirty, in Koriak). They are described as a rapidly diminishing people. The adventurer, Beniowsky, who led their revolt against the Russians in 1771, says that there were 70,000 Itelm when Atlasoff subdued them in 1699, and that they had become reduced to 11,000 in 1771. In 1853 they were said to number 7,331, and this number had become still further reduced to 5,846 in 1870. The facial appearance of this skull quite agrees with Capt. Gore's account, that the females are of pleasing countenance.