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17. The Stature and Cephalic Index of the Prehistoric Men Whose Remains are Preserved in the Mortimer Museum, Drifffield.

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which is one of the outer of three birds originally present, has been shifted through 90 degrees from its ordinary horizontal position, so that it stands on its head. It was uncertain whether or not this bird represented the reef heron.

No. 7, which is very highly conventionalised and particularly well carved, was obtained on Iwa in the Marshall Bennet group.

No. 8 almost certainly comes from Murua, though, as its label has perished, this is uncertain. The tails of the two birds facing in opposite directions at its top, touch and seem to indicate the process by which the bodies of the two reef herons, which so often form the supporters of the rest of the carving, have become fused.

No. 9. This was carved by a boy from a village called Gossop. The pierced scroll bird derivatives were called by the name *susawir*, which appears to be a term conveying some such general meaning as carved scroll or ornamental carving. In general type this *munkuris* resembles No. 10, but only a portion of the plain wooden areas at the top of each limb of the crescent, which forms the main part of the ornament, is carved on one side; the carving on the opposite surface was said to represent the fish *asiwan*.

C. G. SELIGMANN.

England: Physical Anthropology.

Mortimer.

The Stature and Cephalic Index of the Prehistoric Men whose Remains are preserved in the Mortimer Museum, Driffield. By **17**
J. R. Mortimer.

The remains fall into three groups: (a) those of the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age; (b) those of the early Iron Age; (c) those of the Anglo-Saxon Period.

The remains are all from an area of about 80 square miles on the midwolds of Yorkshire. The cephalic indices were estimated by Dr. W. Wright, Dr. Garson, and myself. The measurements of the femora were taken *in situ* by myself.

(a) This series comprises 101 skulls, 34 being long, 28 short, and 39 of an intermediate shape. Of the 34 dolichocephalic individuals, 28 give an average femoral length of 18 ins., and a computed stature according to Beddoe's rule* of 5 ft. 7 ins. Of the 28 brachycephalic individuals, 25 give a mean femoral length of 17·7 ins., or a stature slightly higher than 5 ft. 6 ins. Thirty-five of the 39 mesaticephalic individuals had a femoral length of 17·65 ins., or a stature slightly lower than 5 ft. 6 ins.

It will thus be seen that the long-headed members of the community had the advantage in stature to the extent of one inch. This is contrary to what has been found in other parts of the country. Dr. Thurnam, for instance, as a result of an examination of the remains in the south of England, gives 5 ft. 6 ins. as the stature of the dolichocephalic individuals, 5 ft. 9 ins. as that of the brachycephalic.

The cephalic indices of ten skulls are given by Professor Rolleston in Greenwell's *British Barrows*. Of these skulls five are long and five are short. Of the five long-headed individuals only the stature of two is given, it is 5 ft. 9 ins. and 4 ft. 8 ins. Of the five round-headed individuals the stature of four is given—5 ft. 8 ins., 5 ft. 1 in., 5 ft. 7 ins., and 5 ft. 9 ins. The series is so small as to have little weight one way or the other.

(b) The remains attributable to the early Iron Age mainly are from the Danes' graves, Driffield. They comprise 53 skulls, of which 37 are dolichocephalic, 2 brachycephalic and 14 mesaticephalic. Of the 37 long-headed individuals the mean femoral length of 28 is 17·2 ins., with a computed stature of 5 ft. 4·6 ins.; the femoral length of the brachycephalic examples is 17 ins., with a computed stature of 5 ft. 4 ins., whilst that of 11 mesaticephalic individuals is as much as 17·33 ins., with a stature of 5 ft. 5 ins. The cephalic indices and stature of 11 other individuals from these graves, whose remains are in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, have recently

* *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, Vol. XVII.

been published by Dr. William Wright.* He found 7 dolichocephalic with a mean femoral length of 42.4 cm. and a stature of 5 ft. 3 ins., 1 brachycephalic with a femoral length of 41.1 cm., and a stature of 5 ft., and 3 mesaticephalic with a mean femoral length of 42.8 cm. and a stature of 5 ft. 3.5 ins. Dr. Wright's series therefore agrees with mine in showing that the mesaticephalic individuals had a slight advantage in stature while the brachycephalic member was distinctly short.

(c) The Anglo-Saxon remains were obtained from five cemeteries at Sledmere Stoop, at Garton Station, at the south end of Great Driffield, the Meadows, Driffield, and at Acklam. With the exception of the first all were rich in relics. In addition to the above a few isolated Anglo-Saxon graves have yielded remains. The series comprises 61 measurable crania, 31 dolichocephalic, 7 brachycephalic, and 23 mesaticephalic. Twenty of the dolichocephalic individuals have a mean stature of 5 ft. $5\frac{7}{11}$ ins.,† the 7 brachycephalic examples had a mean stature of 5 ft. $4\frac{1}{11}$ ins., while 15 of the mesaticephalic members had a mean stature of 5 ft. $3\frac{6}{11}$ ins. These measurements show that the long-headed persons were taller than those with short heads by more than an inch.

J. R. MORTIMER.

New Zealand.

Edge-Partington.

Maori Burial Chests. (Atamira or Tupa-Pakau. By J. Edge-Partington. 18

By the kindness of Mr. Alexander Turnbull of Wellington, New Zealand, I am able to reproduce a photograph of his collection of Maori burial chests (wooden) for containing the bones of deceased chiefs. Owing to the secrecy attached to their disposal and to the tabu which surrounded the last resting place of the dead, these chests are of extreme rarity, there being no specimen, as far as I know, in this country. There are specimens both in the Dominion Museum, Wellington, in the Auckland Museum, and in the Melbourne Museum, figured in the *Album*, Third Series, Plate 156. Hamilton, in *Maori Art*, figures one (p. 158) in his collection, which was found in a cave near Auckland, with the one in Melbourne. In *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, Vol. 37, p. 971, Herr Baessler describes and figures those in the Auckland Museum. He says they were made of pine, and were accidentally discovered in a cave at Waimamaku, near Hokianga, north of Auckland. When found those figured on plates x and xii were leaning in a semi-upright position against the back wall, those on plate xii and the covers figured in the text rested in a similar position on the two sides of the entrance to the cave; with them were found remains of skeletons which had evidently fallen out of the chests owing to the lids coming off. These lids had been fastened by means of four holes corresponding to the four holes in the sides of the chests, one at each corner. The chests were in such a good state of preservation that it is evident they were not used at the first burial, but for the bones of the deceased which, after being dug up and cleaned, were deposited in them for their final interment. The covers only of these particular chests were smeared with red-ochre (Kokowai). Mr. Cheeseman, the Director of the Auckland Museum, is of opinion that these chests are over 200 years old.

Mr. Turnbull gives the following description of those in his collection: "The chests are hollowed at the back and have evidently been fitted with lids, because the holes are still visible in the sides where the pegs or flax fastenings were inserted for tying them on. There are several peculiarities to be observed in my set. In every specimen there is the same 'wing'-like carving at the sides with three undoubted claws—not fingers—and in No. 3 there are web feet, giving the impression that the carvings all represent birds. In Nos. 2 and 3 the tongues have serrated edges, and Nos. 2, 3, and 4 have the ears pierced. No. 1 has a 'heru' or comb, and two of the

* *Archæologia*, Vol. LX., pp. 251-322.

† Estimated by Thane's formula in Quain's *Anatomy*.