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24. Note on a Trephined Skull from New Britain.

Author(s): C. G. Seligmann

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are to be adjured to avert evil from their descendants and to grant them prosperity and long life. Chinese (and Buddhist) influences are also responsible for the Shokonsha (shrine for calling upon souls) erected at Tokio soon after the restoration of 1868. Here periodical memorial services are held in honour of departed soldiers and others who have done good service to their country.

The views expressed in this paper are in substantial agreement with those of Dr. Florenz, the principal German authority on the subject. (See his *Japanische Mythologie*, p. 253.)

W. G. ASTON.

Craniology: Trephining.

Seligmann.

Note on a Trephined Skull from New Britain. By C. G. **24**
Seligmann, M.B.

The trephined skull of which a photograph is reproduced in the figure is one of a number of skulls given me in New Britain by Mr. R. Parkinson, who stated that they had been

collected from the bush in the neighbourhood of Blanche Bay. Unfortunately the skull figured was given me packed with a number of others so that no opportunity arose of discussing the trephine hole or its purpose with Mr. Parkinson; indeed, I did not know that his gift included a trephined skull until it was unpacked in this country. That the skull had

been exposed in the bush for some time was evident from the fact that vegetable roots and tendrils had grown through most of the foramina.

In the right occipital region is an oval aperture measuring in chief vertical diameter 2·8 cm. and in smaller transverse diameter 2·2 cm.

It involves part of the posterior border of the right parietal, about midway between the superior and inferior angles, and part of the adjacent portion of the occipital squama. In the latter position it lies altogether above the superior curved line. With the exception of a minute lenticular osteoma on the left parietal bone, about 1 cm. from the sagittal suture and 4·5 cm. in front of the lambda, there is no sign of disease.

The edge of the aperture shelves regularly from the outer towards the inner aspect of the bone, the edge of the border of the opening being sharp and well defined.

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The diploe is nowhere exposed, showing that the injury has been repaired during life the shelving edge being quite smooth and compact. The parieto-occipital suture on either side of the aperture is not obliterated.

The hole in this skull appears to be larger than any yet recorded, due to *ante mortem* trephining, in skulls from New Britain, and notably excels the two examples figured by Professor v. Luschan.*

The specimen is now in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

C. G. SELIGMANN.

Obituary : Bonwick.

Rudler.

James Bonwick : born July 8, 1817 ; died February 6, 1906.

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The death of Mr. James Bonwick, at the ripe age of eighty-eight, removes from the Anthropological Institute one of its original members. Elected into the pre-existing Ethnological Society in 1869, he passed into the Institute on its formation two years afterwards. At one time Mr. Bonwick was a frequent attendant at its meetings, ever welcome by his genial presence, his wide knowledge, and his ability as a speaker in the discussions. In the course of his long life he had seen much of the world, a large part of his time having been passed in the Australian Colonies, where his active career had been curiously versatile. He had been in turn schoolmaster, gold-miner, land-agent, author, editor, lecturer, inspector of schools, and in his later years in this country colonial archivist. His earliest colonial experience was in Tasmania, whither he went as far back as 1841, and where he soon became greatly interested in the natives, gaining acquaintance with the last remnant of the hapless race, and collecting those materials for their history which he used many years afterwards in his well-known works, *The Last of the Tasmanians*, *The Daily Life of the Tasmanians*, and *The Lost Tasmanian Race*. Deeply interested in colonial history, he urged the necessity of official action in securing authentic information such as may be found in the rich store of original documents preserved in our Public Record Office ; and having received the appointment of archivist to the Government of New South Wales he spent much of the evening of his life in this congenial work. Ever active with his pen he wrote at the age of eighty-four an interesting volume entitled, *An Octogenarian's Reminiscences*, in which he recalled the leading features of his useful life, with much pleasant gossip about some of his contemporaries.

F. W. RUDLER.

Archæology : Palæolithic.

Kendall.

Investigations at Knowle Farm Pit. *By the Rev. H. G. O. Kendall,* **26**
M.A.

I am not aware to what extent other people have had the opportunity of studying in detail the gravel, &c., and the lie of the implements and other flaked and chipped stones at the famous Knowle Farm Pit, Saveruake : but, finding myself now within reach of the spot, I have given a considerable number of hours during the past year and more to investigation of the gravel, &c., and to digging out the implements with my own hands. In case, therefore, the resultant observations may contain some element of usefulness in the attempt to solve the difficult problems connected with Palæolithic man and the various deposits in which and under which his tools are found, I venture to set forth a few broad facts.

A considerable space has now been cleared of gravel by the workmen. They have thus formed a kind of platform at the shoulder or bank of the old river valley, now dry. This platform is backed by a face of gravel, not yet dug away.

For some time past the men have not found any great quantity of implements, and for this reason : the implements were originally found in great numbers in a bed of

* *Verhandlungen der Berliner Anthropologischen Gesellschaft*, 1898.