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97. Moriori in New Zealand

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with them, and owing to this prejudice I was unable to obtain specimens actually taken from the houses of natives, the two illustrated being freshly carved. Each consisted of a terminal portion which was especially pointed out to me as indicative of Shongo, a short handle, and an intermediate curved and painted part. The latter portion was decorated, from above downwards in the one case with figures representing a man with a drum, a leopard, a bird feeding another bird, and a coiled snake; and in the other a man riding a horse and holding in his right hand a long snake-headed stick, a bird, a monkey, and two little drummers placed back to back. The taller of the two staffs measured 83 cm. and the shorter 71 cm.

J. W. SCOTT MACFIE, M.A., B.Sc.

New Zealand.

Keith.

Mori in New Zealand. *By Arthur Keith, M.D., F.R.S.*

97

On his present visit to England, the Rev. H. Mason, of New Zealand, brought with him two human skulls which were found in an old deposit at Wanganui,

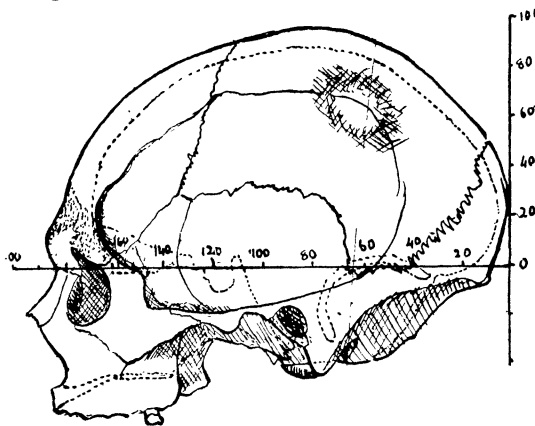


FIG. 1.—PROFILE DRAWING OF THE CRANIUM OF THE WOMAN'S SKULL ($\frac{1}{3}$ NAT. SIZE).

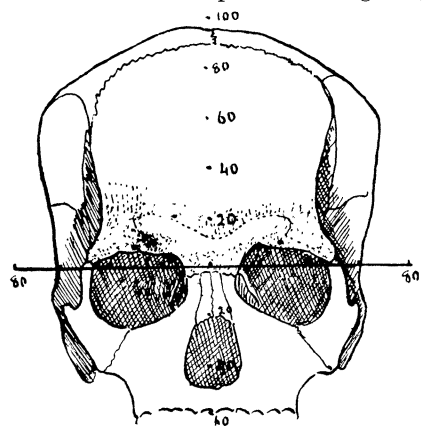


FIG. 2.—FULL FACE DRAWING OF THE SAME ($\frac{1}{3}$ NAT. SIZE).

near the south end of the North Island. The crania were sent to the Royal Anthropological Institute for examination and report. The crania belonged unmistakably to the Mori race, and differ markedly from the crania of the Maori. Although the exact degree of antiquity which must be ascribed to the two crania is not at present ascertainable, all the evidence points to their belonging to a pre-Maori date. Mr. Mason's discovery thus supports the contention that the Mori, now confined—a mere remnant—to the Chatham Islands, were the inhabitants of New Zealand before the arrival of the Maori.

Of the two skulls, one is of an adult, a woman; the other is the cranium of a child about eight or nine years of age. The drawings of the skull of the adult (Figs. 1, 2, 3) show the very distinctive race marks of the Mori—as pointed out some years ago by Dr. Duckworth—the narrow, rather receding forehead, and the extremely prominent characteristic parietal eminences. The details relating to the measurements

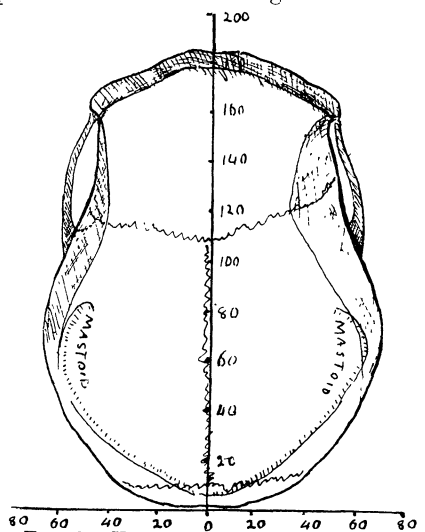


FIG. 3.—VERBEA VIEW OF THE SAME ($\frac{1}{3}$ NAT. SIZE).

can be obtained from the drawings (Figs. 1, 2, 3). The maximum length of the woman's skull is 185 mm.; the width, 130 mm.; the relation of width to length (cephalic index), 70.3 per cent.; the supra-auricular height, 114 mm.; the cubic capacity, 1,150 cc.—a small amount. The cranial capacity of the child is 1,130 cc.; the upper face length is short, 60 mm.; but the face is wide—the bizygomatic diameter being 127 mm. The neck was narrow from side to side—the bimachord width being 118 mm. The nose is moderately wide (26 mm.), and high (50 mm.); the margins of the nasal aperture are sharp, and the nasal spine is moderately marked. The supra-orbital ridges are rather unduly developed for a woman. It will be seen that the Moriori are free from negroid characters; from the conformation of their crania one would suspect that the Maori have a much nearer affinity to the negroid stock. The Moriori are related evidently to some of the Polynesian and South American races; at least it is amongst those races one finds cranial forms which are comparable.

The Rev. Mr. Mason informed the writer that the two skulls—possibly of mother and daughter—were found in a stratum of fine sand, about 6 feet to 8 feet in depth. This stratum occurs at the base of a cliff near the estuary of a stream. The cliff is about 36 feet high. The upper stratum, 8 feet thick, is composed of clay; then follows a stratum, 20 feet in depth, of hard shell rock, and then the stratum of sand in which the crania were found at the base of the cliff and near the bank of the stream. It is likely that the crania were buried in the stratum of sand at the foot of the cliff; they are too fresh in structure and appearance to be of the age of the stratum in which they were found. It is hoped that further exploration may reveal facts and data from which a more exact estimate may be formed of the date at which these peculiar people lived at Wanganui.

Mr. Mason has deposited the crania in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, England.

A. KEITH.

New Zealand.

Edge-Partington.

An Unusual Form of Tiki. *By J. Edge-Partington.*

98

Mr. Willi Fels, of Dunedin, has sent me a photograph of a very unusual form of Tiki in his collection. The head of the figure, instead of being to the right or left, is in an erect position. It is cut from a particularly fine piece of greenstone and is of excellent workmanship. The original hole for suspension has broken away, and another has, at some early date, been rebores from the back, slightly inclining upwards, by Maori implements. It was dug up at Ruapekapeka, 128 miles north of Auckland, about 1908. Another very interesting point in this specimen is that it has indications of tattooing on head, shoulder, and legs, and the edge is ornamented with notches. Similar notches are found on adze blades. Mr. Fels raises the question as to whether these notches are for any practical use or only for ornamentation. I certainly can never remember having seen a Tiki so notched. Mr. Hamilton, the Director of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, N.Z., knows of only one other *genuine* specimen of this type.

J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.

