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58. Description of a Bushman Skull.

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Source: *Man*, Vol. 1 (1901), p. 70

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2839363>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 06:09 UTC

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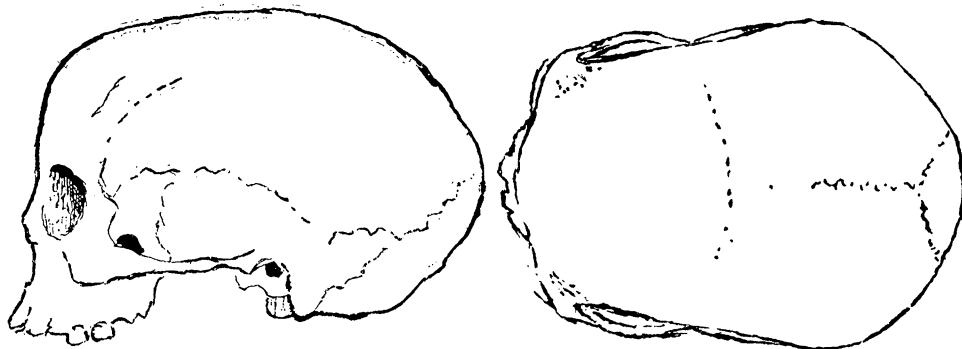
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South Africa: Bushman.

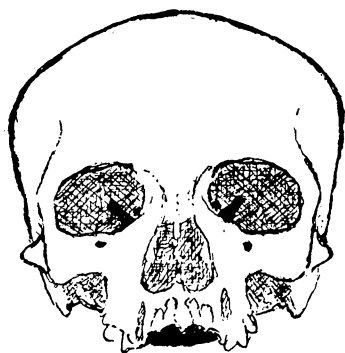
Beddoe.

Description of a Bushman Skull. By John Beddoe, M.D., F.R.S.

The skull which is the subject of this note was presented to Dr. Beddoe by **58** Major Ryder, who obtained it in the neighbourhood of Kenhardt, where the "wild" Bushmen have been extinct many years, though some of those surviving in a "tame" condition may be pure-blooded. There are many Bushman drawings, or rather sculptures, on the rocks about Pietrooisberg, near Kenhardt; in these the animals are represented, Major Ryder says, with wonderful accuracy and spirit, but the human figures are apparently conventional, mere things of dots and lines. The Bushman graves are regarded with superstitious dread by the Bastards and other natives.



The skull is perfect, only wanting the mandible. In the vertical aspect it is phænozygous and sphenoid, with smoothly rounded prominence of the occiput; in the occipital broad and flat; in the lateral low, flattened, with rather low but vertical forehead, and prominent occiput with lambdoid flattening. The orbits are low, squarish; the nasal notch almost absent, the nasal opening short and broad; there is considerable alveolar prognathism. The palate is elliptic; the teeth are much ground down, but without decay. Frontal and coronal sutures obliterated; sutures generally simple and uncomplicated. Bones posteriorly rather thin and light: weight 18 ounces. I am not sure about the sex.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lengths</i> - Glabello-max. - 175 | Fronto-inial - 170 |
| Glabello-inial - 166 | Ophryo-max. - 175 |
| Nasio-alveolar - 52 | Basio-nasal - 95 |
| Basio-alveolar - 95 | |
| <i>Breadths</i> - Fronto-minimum 95 | Stephanic - 105 |
| Bijugal - 104 | Auricular (meatus) 86 |
| Bizygomatic - 118 | „ (fossa) 104 |
| Maximum - 131 (p) | Asterial - 102 |
| Mastoid - 111 | Interior orbital - 98 |
| Exterior orbital 111 | |

Arcs - Circumference - 496

Sagittal arc, $132\text{ f} + 111\text{ p} + 75 + 40 + 34\text{ f} + 95 = \text{total } 487.$

Transverse arc, $288 + 109 = 397.$

Inferior frontal arc, 264. Occipital arc, 258 ?.

Superior „ „ 277. O. Thomas's arc, 107 to 100.

Orbit, 38-30. Nasal, 34-29. Foramen, 32-28.

Indices - Latitudinal, $74 \cdot 85.$ Altitudinal, $66 \cdot 28.$ Orbital, 79. Nasal, 85.

Capacity - Estimated (Topinard) 1176.

J. BEDDOE.