

Report on Calvarium from Guy's Rift, Slaughterford, Wilts.

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The calvarium is unfortunately in a very fragmentary condition. I have reason to believe that there has been a considerable amount of warping, probably due to the drying of the fragments, either before or after excavation. This warping seems to occur very frequently when bones are much broken, as the drying proceeds unevenly, and there is no mutual pressure to help in the retention of the original shape.

We are singularly deficient in early Iron Age skulls. Even the enormous collection of British Skulls made by Rolleston only includes two complete skulls. Any specimens however fragmentary are therefore of great value. Owing to the broken nature of the specimen, in order to avoid excessive handling, I asked Mr. Talbot Rice, research student in this Department to prepare tracings with a diagraph natural size. The figures are reduced from drawings I have made from his tracings. I am much indebted to him for his help.

Although the muscular ridges are slightly developed, and the forehead is smooth, and with only a slight projection in the region of the glabella the general appearance of the calvarium suggests a male. The age is adult, but I cannot specify further.

Viewed from the side—*norma lateralis*—the general appearance is striking. The forehead is high, well developed and prominent. The vault is evenly curved, and the occiput bulges considerably, giving the calvarium an elongated appearance when viewed in this aspect.

Seen in *norma verticalis*, that is when looked at from above, owing to the fragmentary nature of the specimen, the figure is slightly misleading. This is due to the fact that so much of the left side of the forehead is missing. The brain case appears to be slightly asymmetrical, a common feature, probably one side is about two millimetres larger than the other. The forehead is broad, shewing that, in conjunction with the height already noted there was considerable frontal development. In cranial form the view from on top accords with that of the lateral view that the skull is definitely long-

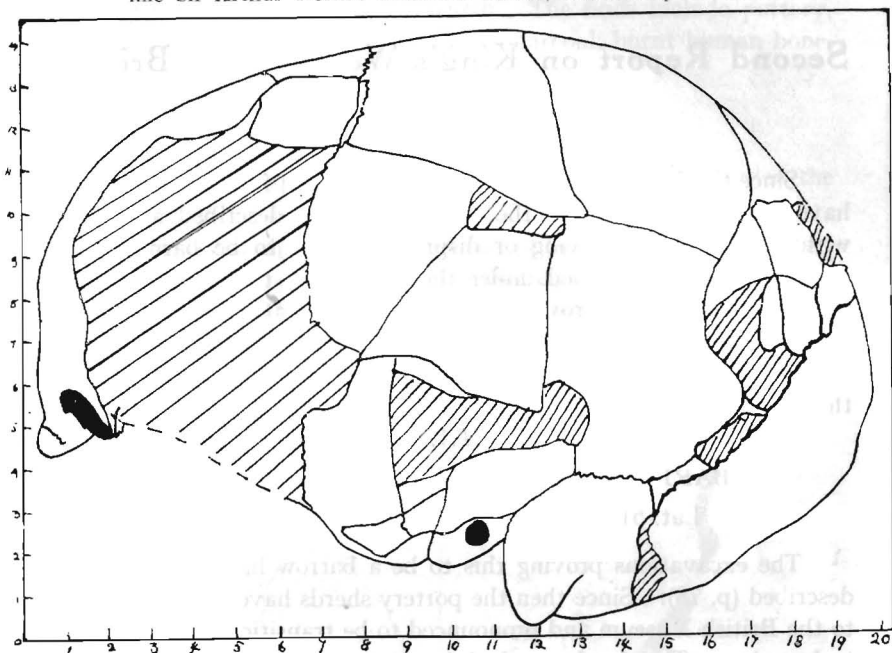
headed, the cephalic index being probably in the neighbourhood of 73, well within the dolichocephalic group.

The one absolutely certain Early Iron Age skull in Rolleston's collection which is perfectly preserved, that from Market Weighton in Yorkshire, is of exactly the same type, indeed the description I have written above would apply almost word for word to that. A specimen from Sunderland which may possibly be of the same date is of a different type altogether. The most striking feature of the Slaughterford and the Market Weighton skulls is their dissimilarity from the Romano-British specimens. I could parallel them in this latter series, as we have many hundreds from which to choose, but the normal type as represented in some picked at random for my pupils to measure is quite different.

If on the other hand we turn to the older series, the Long Barrow and other Neolithic skulls, the last being unfortunately only a small group, we find that, although often presenting differences, they belong to the same general type.

Sir Arthur Keith has pointed out that the so-called River Bed type belongs to the Mediterranean race. There can be little doubt that the specimen before us belongs also to this division of mankind. The point of greatest interest is the contrast between this type and the Romano-British. It is impossible to come to any conclusions on the basis of two skulls, but it seems worthy of note that these two chance specimens should definitely belong to the older type, whereas among the many specimens of the succeeding period one has to search considerably before comparable specimens can be found.

The surrounding lines have been divided into centimetres. They are not a frame, like Sir Arthur Keith's Standard Frame, but merely a scale.



NORMA VERTICALIS.

