

Report on the Skeleton found within the Roman Coffin from Kelston, nr. Bath

MANY of the bones of the skeleton are missing, and of those present, some are fragmented.

From examination of the remains the following conclusions can be drawn :—

- a. As regards the age of the individual, the degree of union of the cranial sutures indicates an age of 50 years or more. The mandible shows reabsorption of the alveolar walls, the only teeth present being the incisors. The general configuration of these bones suggests an age of between 60 and 70 years.
- b. The only bones available for calculation of the height were the humerus and the radius. Estimation of the height from both these bones gives an average of 152.9 cm. ; this suggests a height of 5 ft. (\pm 1 in.).
- c. SEX. The available parts of the skeleton, mandible, skull, clavicle, vertebræ and fragments of the pelvic bones, make it quite certain that the remains are those of a female. Muscular and ligamentous impressions of these bones suggest that the body development was that of an elderly woman.

SKULL. The breadth index is 78 ; this means that the skull is mesati-cephalic.

THE HEIGHT INDEX is 68, the skull being therefore tapeino-cephalic.

Nothing definite can be suggested as to platymeria or platycnemia.

There is slight suggestion of a "squatting facet" on the astragalus, but I cannot be definite about this.

There is a well-marked pronator ridge on the anterior aspect of the lower end of the ulna.

SUMMARY

These bones seem to be from an elderly woman (60-70 years), and no estimation can be made of the time of burial.

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