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A BRIEF REPORT ON HUMAN BONES SENT TO THE ANATOMY SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, IN THE MONTHS OF MAY AND AUGUST, 1911, BY THE REV. F. G. WALKER, M.A., SECRETARY OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

By W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, M.D., Sc.D.

#### INTRODUCTION.

THIS report deals with two collections of human bones found on the outskirts of Cambridge, near the Grange Road. Objects found in close proximity to the skeletons denote the period of the Roman occupation of Britain.

Having examined the bones and investigated the measurements as fully as possible, I wish to point out that the skeletons cannot be identified with the slightly-built Iberian or Neolithic type still recognisable in the existing population of East Anglia. In view of the evidence of the surroundings this identification would be unexpected. But I do not find that the crania (this applies to the males) correspond to what is commonly described as the Saxon type. They certainly do not represent that type in its most distinct form. The skulls are too broad and rounded, and although one of the mandibles is the most distinctive "Saxon" document, yet the type it represents is more characteristic of the "Bronzè" Age. The width of one skull (No. 2) is so great as to attract special attention, as it amounts to 151 mm. This figure is rarely met with among definitely Saxon crania. For a more detailed exposition of this part of the subject I would refer to the conjoint report (by Mr Pocock and myself) on the crania from the site of the New Examination Hall (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.* Vol. XIV, Michaelmas Term, 1909).

Such specimens as those under consideration are commonly described as Romano-British, a term which must serve until a more definite one shall be justifiably applied. But there is no

doubt in my mind that the evidence of these interments (as of others at Burwell which I examined some years ago with Dr Poignand) shows that the mode of burial may be clearly in favour of the Saxon affinities of the skeleton, while the cranium fails to provide confirmation of that conclusion.

It is therefore reasonable to believe that the circumstances determining a Saxon mode of interment affected men of several different physical types. Of the several varieties, the skulls here described as Romano-British may really be allied to the so-called Belgic type, and they are quite as reasonably referred to this as to that of the Saxons. The estimated stature constitutes no bar to either conclusion.

The difficulties of the analysis may be realised better if I add that in another report<sup>1</sup> I deal with precisely the converse of the present problem, for the skulls and other bones sent from Hynning are probably anything but Saxon according to the information provided by Professor Hughes. And yet the Hynning skulls would pass very well as Saxon in form. It is very desirable that an extensive investigation should be made of the skulls from all the Saxon cemeteries of which descriptions exist. A considerable amount of material will be found in the memoirs of Mr Bidder and Mr Parsons, as also in the museums of Cambridge and Saffron Walden. Details of the characters of the Grange Road skeletons are now presented in the appended Report.

#### REPORT ON HUMAN BONES SENT TO THE ANATOMY SCHOOL BY MR WALKER DURING 1911.

I. From the foundations dug for Mr Hopkins' house on the west side of the Grange Road, a collection of human bones was received in May 1911. Three individuals were represented.

A. Fragmentary bones of an adult male skeleton of moderate stature: the lower jaw is small and feminine in appearance, with pointed chin. One arm bone (the left) has a perforated olecranon fossa.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. pp. 133 et seq. of the present volume.

B. Fragmentary bones of an adult male skeleton. One arm bone (the left humerus) is complete. A stature of 5ft. 7in. is denoted by the length of this bone (333 mm.) and this estimate is confirmed by the measurement of the left radius (266 mm.).

The lower jaw is large and heavy. It has an exceedingly long "coronoid" process. Such a process is to be seen in several skulls of the Saxon period which form part of the Thurnam Collection in the Anatomy School. Other parts of the skull are much damaged. The brow-ridges are well developed. The fragments of the remaining bones indicate the adult age of the individual, and their stoutness (together with the distinct ridges for muscular attachments) denote a powerful physique.

C. A small fragment of an upper jaw was sent with specimen B. The remaining teeth are much worn, but not diseased in any way.

## II. From the Grange Road, Aug. 1, 1911.

In August, Mr Walker sent three skulls and a number of bones to the Anatomy School. The following observations have been made on these specimens.

No. 1. Skull of an adult man. The brow-ridges are very prominent, the mastoid processes very large, the nose was prominent, the orbits are low and their respective axes are horizontal. The cranial vault is broad and rather flattened transversely. The occiput has a slight but distinct bulging or "renflement." The jaw is of moderate size, the chin being but slightly prominent. The coronoid process is very slightly higher than the condyle and herein contrasts strongly with that in specimen I A (v. supra). The palate is long and wide, and therefore extensive. The teeth are of moderate size but of good quality and much worn. The "glenoid fossae" are deep, and the cranial sutures are almost free from the onset of synostosis. An age of not more than 30 years is thus indicated.

The massive limb bones probably belonged to the same individual, whose stature was about 5ft. 7in.

No. 2. A large skull of an adult man: the face is much damaged. The brow-ridges are massive (less so than in No. 1),

the external occipital protuberance well developed, but occipital projection or renflement is hardly to be detected. The mastoid processes are large, the "glenoid fossae" deep. The face was less prognathous than that of No. 1. The mandible has a distinct chin, and is specially distinguished further by the eversion of its borders at the "angle" on each side. No cranial synostosis has occurred, so that the individual was barely mature.

No. 3. The third specimen is a skull-cap or calvaria. It is almost certainly female: the sutural lines have disappeared so that an indication of advanced age is provided. The specimen differs from the two male crania not only in respect of size, being smaller, but also as regards its shape, for it is longer and narrower than the male specimens.

Of the remaining bones, there should be mentioned specially:

No. 4. A small mandible belonging to an individual of about eleven years of age is stained as though some bronze object had been in contact with it. Other bones assignable to the same individual confirm the estimate of age given above in connection with the lower jaw. Only one fragment of an os innominatum (hip-bone) is present, and this is too small to provide evidence of the sex of the skeleton, which (on other grounds) has been determined as female.

The chief dimensions of Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are given in the appended table.

MEASUREMENT OF SKULLS, GRANGE ROAD, AUG. 1, 1911.

Descriptions	Male No. 1	Male No. 2	? Female (calvaria)
<b>Cranial portion:</b>			
Maximum length ... ..	190	185	181
Maximum breadth ... ..	149	151	135
Basi-bregmatic height ... ..	133	131.5	?
Horizontal circumference	542	530	? 515
Auricular height (from "centre") ... ..	121	123	?

Descriptions	Male No. 1	Male No. 2	? Female (calvaria)
<b>Facial portion :</b>			
Basi-nasal length ... ..	101	99	
Basi-alveolar length ... ..	103		
Nasi-alveolar length ... ..	68		
Bi-zygomatic breadth ... ..	136		
Orbital height ... ..	31		
Orbital width ... ..	42		
Nasal height ... ..	52		
Nasal width ... ..	24		
<b>Indices :</b>			
Cephalic ... ..	78.4	81.6	?75.9
Altitudinal ... ..	70	70.8	
Alveolar ... ..	102		
Facial (Kollmann's) ... ..	50		
Orbital ... ..	73.8		
Nasal ... ..	46.2		

## (2) PALAEOLOGIC FLINT IMPLEMENTS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

These flints were found by the writer of this paper at Gamlingay and in the fields along the Fleam Dyke, and consist of borers, graters and scrapers of the Aurignacian and Magdalenian periods, together with six finely worked pigmy implements from Gamlingay.

A Magdalenian graver, picked up at Gamlingay some years ago by the Rev. Osmond Fisher, was also exhibited.

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