

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE NEANDERTHAL MAN.

The pithecanthropoid whose remains were found in the Neander Valley, although no longer an isolated instance of primitive anthropology, still commands a special interest and will, in addition to the comments and pictures presented to our readers in the article "The Ascent of Man," justify the publication of some pertinent quotations which were collected by Mr. Charles H. Ward of Rochester.

Dr. Fuhlrott describes the locality where the remains were discovered in the early part of 1857 as follows:

"A small cave or grotto, high enough to admit a man, and about 15 feet deep from the entrance, which is 7 or 8 feet wide, exists in the southern wall of the gorge of the Neanderthal, as it is termed, at a distance of about 100 feet from the Düssel, and about 60 feet above the bottom of the valley. In its earlier and uninjured condition, this cavern opened upon a narrow plateau lying in front of it, and from which the rocky wall descended almost perpendicularly into the river. It could be reached, though with difficulty, from above. The uneven floor was covered to a thickness of 4 or 5 feet with a deposit of mud, sparingly intermixed with rounded fragments of chert. In the removing of this deposit the bones were discovered. The skull was first noticed placed nearest to the entrance of the cavern; and further in the other bones, lying in the same horizontal plane. Of this I was assured in the most positive terms by two laborers who were employed to clear out the grotto, and who were questioned by me on the spot. At first no idea was entertained of the bones being human; and it was not till several weeks after their discovery that they were recognised as such by me, and placed in security. But, as the importance of the discovery was not at the time perceived, the laborers were very careless in the collecting, and secured chiefly only the larger bones; and to this circumstance it may be attributed that fragments merely of the probably perfect skeleton came into my possession."

Dr. Fuhlrott condenses his conclusions in these three statements:

"First: That the extraordinary form of the skull was due to a natural conformation hitherto not known to exist, even in the most barbarous races. Second: That these remarkable human remains belonged to a period antecedent to the time of the Celts and Germans, and were in all probability derived from one of the wild races of North-western Europe, spoken of by Latin writers; and which were encountered as autochthones by the German immigrants. And thirdly: That it was beyond doubt that these human relics were traceable to a period at which the latest animals of the diluvium still existed; but that no proof in support of this assumption, nor consequently of their so-termed *fossil* condition, was afforded by the circumstances under which the bones were discovered".

Darwin mentions the subject in *The Descent of Man*:

"The belief that there exists in man some close relation between the size of the brain and the development of the intellectual faculties is supported by the comparison of the skulls of savage and civilised races, of ancient and modern peoples, and by the analogy of the whole vertebrate series. Dr. J. Bernard Davis has proved, by many careful measurements, that the mean internal capacity of the skull in Europeans is 92.3 cubic inches; in Americans 87.5; in Asiatics 87.1; and in Australians only 81.9 cubic inches. Professor Broca found that the nineteenth century skulls from graves in Paris were larger than those from vaults of the twelfth century, in the proportion of 1484 to 1426; and that the increased size, as ascertained by measurements, was exclusively in the frontal part of the skull—the seat of the intellectual faculties. Prichard is persuaded that the present inhabitants of Britain have 'much more capacious brain-cases' than the ancient inhabitants. Nevertheless, it must be admitted, that some skulls of very high antiquity, such as the famous one of Neanderthal, are well developed and 'capacious.'

Huxley in *Man's Place in Nature* says:

"Under whatever aspect we view this cranium, whether we regard its vertical depression, the enormous thickness of its superciliary ridges, its sloping occiput, or its long and straight squamosal suture, we meet with apelike characters, stamping it as the most pithecoïd of human crania yet discovered. . . . And indeed, though truly the most pithecoïd of human skulls, the Neanderthal cranium is by no means so isolated as it appears to be at first, but forms, in reality, the extreme term of a series leading gradually from it to the highest and best developed of human crania."

Finally we quote the statement of a distinguished anthropologist still living, Prof. Paul Topinard, who in his *Anthropology* makes the following statement:

"Human palæontology commences with the Post-pliocene or Mammoth epoch. Examples of it are few in number, and not readily capable of classification. De Quatrefage and Hamy, however, have not flinched from this difficult task. By joining together fragments of male skulls from Cannstatt, Eguisheim, Brux, Denise, and the Neanderthal, and female skulls from Stroengenœs, L'Olmo, and Clichy, they succeeded in discovering in them certain common characters; that is to say, dolichocephaly, a remarkable sinking of the vault of the skull, or platycephaly, a great recession of the frontal bone, and a very marked development of the superciliary arches. Of all the specimens, the most remarkable are the calvarium of the Neanderthal and the jaw of La Naulette. Any one accustomed to handle the skulls of the anthropoid apes will be immediately struck with the great resemblance between them. The Neanderthal especially reminds one of the calvarium of the female gorilla, which is similarly staved in, as it were, or of the skull of a hylobate. The superciliary arches are altogether simian, although the skull is clearly human. Its capacity, estimated at 1200 cubic centimetres, dissipates all doubt on the subject."

NOTES.

A petition is being prepared for Congress for the protection of antiquities. Rev. Henry Mason Baum and Frederick B. Wright will be prepared to receive subscriptions and signatures at the office of the *Records of the Past*, 215 3d st., S. E., Washington, D. C.