THE KINGDOM OF MAN

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The kingdom of man by E. Ray Lankester

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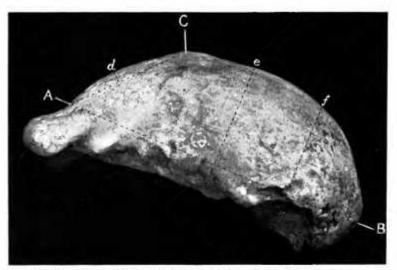
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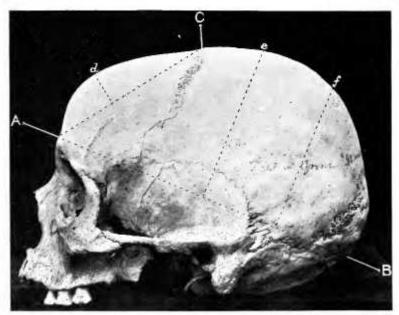
E. RAY LANKESTER

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Cranial Dome of Pithecanthropus crectus from river gravel in Java.



Skull of a Greek from an ancient Cemetery.

THE

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BY

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LONDON

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BY

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DESCRIPTION OF THE FRONTISPIECE

The upper figure is from a cast of the celebrated specimen found in a river gravel in Java, probably of as great age as the palæolithic gravels of Europe. Though rightly to be regarded as a 'man'—the creature which possessed this skull has been given the name '*Pithecanthropus.*' The shape of the cranial dome differs from that of a welldeveloped European human skull (shewn in the lower photograph, that of a Greek skull) in the same features as do the very ancient prehistoric skulls from the Belgian caves of Spey, and from the Neanderthal of the Rhineland. These differences are, however, measurably greater in the Javanese skull.

The three great features of difference are: (1) the great size of the eye-brow ridges (the part below and in front of A in the figures) in the Java skull; (2) the much greater relative height of the middle and back part of the cranial dome (lines e and f) in the Greek skull; (3) the much greater prominence in the Greek skull of the front part of the cranial dome —the prefrontal area or frontal 'boss' (the part in front of the line A C, the depth of which is shewn by the line d).

The parts of the cranial cavity thus obviously more capacious in the Greek skull are precisely those which are small in the Apes and overlie those convolutions of the brain which have been specially developed in Man as compared with the highest Apes.

The line A B in both the figures is the ophryo-tentorial line. It is drawn from the ophryon (the mid-point in the line drawn across the narrowest part of the frontal bone just above the eye-brow ridges), which corresponds externally to the most anterior limit of the brain, to the extra-tentorial point (between the occipital ridges) and is practically the base line of the cerebrum. The lines ϵ and f are perpendiculars on this base line, the first half-way between A and B, the second half-way between the first and the extra-tentorial point.

C is the point known to craniologists as 'bregma,' the meeting point of the frontal and the two parietal bones.

The line A C is drawn as a straight line joining A and C—but if the skull is accurately posed it corresponds to the edge of the plane at right angles to the sagittal plane of the skull—which traverses both bregma (C) and ophryon (A)—and where it 'cuts' the skull marks off the prefrontal area or boss. (See for the full-face view of this area in the two skulls—Figs. r and 2.) The line d is a perpendicular let fall from the point of greatest prominence of the prefrontal area on to the prefrontal plane. It indicates the depth of the prefrontal cerebral region. Drawn on both sides on the surface of the bone and looked at from in front (the white dotted line in Figs. r and 2) it gives the maximum breadth of the prefrontal area.

By dividing the ophryo-tentorial line into 100 units, and using those units as measures, the depths of the brain cavity in the regions plumbed by the lines d, ϵ , and f, can be expressed numerically and their differences in a series of skulls stated in percentage of the ophryo-tentorial length.

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