

Blumenbach's solitary Georgian skull, "never has a single head done more mischief to science, than was done in the way of posthumous mischief, by the head of this well-shaped female from Georgia," may have had their influence in tempting to the Caucasian paradox of his Dioscurian Mongols. The classification, at any rate, entirely ignores physical conformation, and rests on vocabulary analogies, confirmed by an opinion expressed by Mr. Norris, of the Asiatic Society, that on the surer evidence of grammatical comparison, the closest philological affinity of the Dioscurian languages is with the Aptotic ones, of which the Chinese is generally accepted as the type.

It is scarcely necessary to say, that languages may belong to a different class from the people who speak them. Europe supplies abundant and well authenticated illustrations of this. An Englishman speaking Chinese, does not thereby become a Mongol, nor will the adoption of the English tongue by the Chinese emigrants to Australia and elsewhere, affect their essentially Mongolian physical characteristics. Dr. Latham accordingly refers to the want of sufficient evidence for discussing the physical elements of classification in his Dioscurian Mongols. "Physiological objections," he observes, "based upon the symmetry of shape and delicacy of complexion on the part of the Georgians and Circassians, I am at present unable to meet. I can only indicate our want of osteological data, and remind my readers of the peculiar climatological conditions of the Caucasian range; which is at once temperate, mountainous, wooded, and in the neighbourhood of the sea—in other words the reverse of all Mongol areas hitherto enumerated. Perhaps, too," he adds, "I may limit the extent of such objections as a matter of fact. It is only amongst the chiefs, where the personal beauty of the male portion of the population is at all remarkable. The tillers of the soil are, comparatively speaking, coarse and unshapely."

The latter remark—whatever be its value,—may be made of the tillers of the soil everywhere; but if the Georgian and Circassian mothers are generally as graceful and beautiful in form as the concurrent opinion of travellers affirms them to be, the perpetuation of anything approximating to a Mongol physical type in their sons, would be one of the greatest marvels in physiological ethnology. In the absence, however, of osteological data, the smallest contribution towards the accumulation of the requisite facts may have its value.

The history of the cranium to which I now direct attention, is as