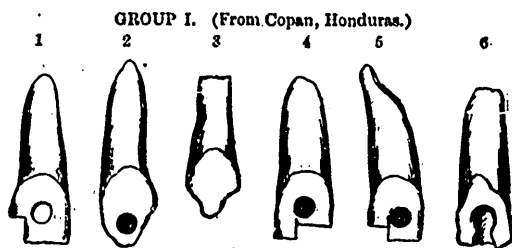


historic. It was found by Mr. M. H. Saville, in grave No. 14, and in it may be seen how curiously were filed the six anterior upper and lower teeth. It is undoubtedly a Maya skull, of a person—probably a female—about twenty years of age, judging from the erupting wisdom-teeth. As no metal of any kind was found in any of the excavations, the teeth were probably ground down with coarse stone instruments. There is no decay in any of the teeth, all being sound; but the left superior cuspid is just



1. Central incisor, inlay lost, filed; 2. Cuspid, beautiful green jade inlay near cutting-edge; 3. Bicuspid, root absorbed, probably by abscess; 4. Central incisor, green jade inlay and filed; 5. Central incisor, green jade inlay and filed; 6. Cuspid, inlay lost, broken through to cutting-edge.

erupting about a quarter of an inch inside the arch. It would seem as though these early people were flesh-eaters, and perhaps cannibals, and that the teeth may have been filed in this manner for the purpose of better tearing of flesh. The photograph would imply that the skull was of considerable capacity, but it recedes very perceptibly from the orbits upward, so as to appear as though much flattened. The teeth that were found at Copan, near by, are perhaps more interesting than the skull. Many of these have small circular pieces of green jade inlaid in a cavity that has been drilled by a stone or glass instrument in the face of the incisors and cuspids. These inlays are a little more than an eighth of an inch in diameter, the outer surface is rounded and brightly polished, and as perfectly fitted as it could be by the most skilled operator of to-day, with all the modern instruments at his command. In a few of the teeth the inlays have loosened so that it can be taken out, and there appears to be a white substance, perhaps a cement, between the inlay and the tooth, used to hold the inlay in place. It would seem that this inlay might be some mark of distinction, perhaps used in the mouth of a chief or head man of the people. Some of these teeth are filed and have no inlay. Some are inlaid and not filed. And some are both filed and inlaid. Quite a number of the teeth are badly decayed. Much of this decay appears to be at the cervical border, and in no case does there appear to be any filling of any kind used to stop decay. None of them were filled for prophylactic purposes. In the teeth from skeleton 8, mound 36, found at Copan, two of the