

The latter are at the same time the regions where intermarriage with the Athapaskan tribes of the interior has been frequent. We know that the Bilqula have intermarried very extensively with the Carriers and Chilcotin; the Lillooet with the latter. Therefore it would appear that brachycephalism becomes more frequent in those regions where intermixture with Athapaskans makes itself felt. In order to strengthen or to refute this theory, it would be necessary to obtain measurements of the Sishiatl, of Jervis Inlet, and of the upper Tsimshian, both of whom are in close contact with Athapaskans. The Tlingit, of Alaska, who are immediate neighbors of Athapaskan tribes, are also more brachycephalic than the tribes of the coast of British Columbia, and their stature seems to be higher. There can be little doubt that among the Athapaskans on the whole brachycephalism is very frequent. Quatrefages and Hamy* mention seven skulls from various Athapaskan tribes of Canada, and find them to be brachycephalic. The proportions of their faces, also, closely resemble those of the Bilqula and the other tribes discussed in the present paper. I had occasion to question a number of former officers of the Hudson Bay Company regarding the general appearance of the Athapaskans of the interior of British Columbia and of the Mackenzie Basin. According to their descriptions, the Athapaskans resemble the tribes of the north-west coast much more closely than the Algonquin. For these reasons, as well as on account of the form of their language and a number of customs and beliefs, I am inclined to class the Athapaskans as one of the peoples of the north Pacific coast. A good series of measurements from the Mackenzie Basin would decide this question. The almost complete absence of Dolichocephali—at least, according to the present state of our knowledge—distinguishes them most clearly from the eastern group—the Algonquin and Iroquois—as well as from the central and eastern Eskimo.

The divergence of the tribes of Harrison lake from all their neighbors is very curious, more especially the high degree of brachycephalism and of chamæprosopy. The width of both head and face is much greater than is found in any other tribe. Their small stature is also quite unique. If I should include three men of about 55 years in the series, the average would be less than 1,600 mm. I may mention here that three tibiæ and femora which I collected at Lytton with the mesocephalic skulls mentioned above are very small.

* *Crania ethnica*, p. 470.