

a specific Celtic skull-form, both the above forms—to the correct knowledge of which he has largely contributed,—cannot be grouped under it. At least two types of extreme diversity belong to the ancient British pagan period: the one, the extremely long skull of the megalithic tombs; the other, the short and broad brachycephalic skull abounding in British barrows of ante-Roman and Roman centuries; while the ovoid dolichocephalic skull of the pagan Saxon is intermediate in form, when compared with the two.

More than one hypothesis is open to us to account for such diversities. There is the probability of an Allophylian, possibly Finnic, Turanian, or other prehistoric race, which was in occupation of Britain before the first Celtic immigration. Retzius from the examination of two Basque skulls was led to the conviction, which accorded with his preconceived opinions, that the Basque head-form is brachycephalic. M. A. d'Abbadie confirmed this opinion by his observations on the living head; and the result has been generally accepted as an established fact. But recently, two members of the Anthropological Society of Paris recovered with their own hands, from a Basque cemetery, in the province of Guipuscoa, sixty crania, which are now deposited in the museum of the Society. Of these, M. Paul Broca remarks, in his address delivered before the Society in 1863: "Of the sixty Basque skulls in your collection, two or three only are really brachycephalous; most of them are altogether dolichocephalous; and, what was quite unexpected, the mean type of the series is much more dolichocephalous than that of the French in the north." Here it is seen M. Broca unhesitatingly styles them "Basque skulls;" but though the old Iberian tongue survives in the Basque district, its race may be, and probably is, not less mixed than the Gaelic speaking people of the Lewes, for example, among whom both Finnic and Norse features and head-forms are affirmed by one recent experienced observer, Captain Thomas, R.N. to predominate.* The unexpected results of the anatomical study of so large a number of crania from a cemetery within the Basque area, are, however, deserving of the most careful study. They help to add to the regret that the abundant dark locks of the Silures prevented Tacitus from reporting on the form of head of the British tribes to whom an Iberian origin was ascribed.

To the comparative proportions of the head-forms of Guipuscoa and the north of France I shall again refer. But, returning meanwhile to

* M.S. Letters to the author. *Prehist. Annals*, Vol. II. p. 208.