

his "De Aere, Aquis, et Locis," to the Macrocephali as a people among whom "those are thought the most noble who have the longest heads." Skulls of this type have been recovered in recent years from ancient graves in the Crimean Bosphorus, and the valley of the Don. Still more illustrative of the effort at superinducing a novel dolichocephalic form among races of brachycephalic type, are the examples of compressed Hun or Avar skulls found from time to time on the line of march of the great Hunish invasions of Europe in the fifth and sixth centuries. One of the first examples of such mediæval compressed crania which attracted special attention in Europe was a skull found, in the year 1820, at Fuersbrunn, near Grafenegg, in Austria. Count August von Breuner, the proprietor of the soil, acquired possession of the interesting relic, and at once ascribed it to the Avarian Huns, who occupied that region from the middle of the sixth until the eighth century. Of this compressed Avar skull, Retzius gave a description in the proceedings of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, in 1844; and showed that the skull, which had been regarded as remarkable for its great elongation, was in reality a true brachycephalic skull, such as the Mongol affinities of the Avars would suggest, but that by artificial compression it had been elongated, vertically, or rather obliquely. An additional interest is conferred on this European example of artificial cranial deformation by the fact that scientific observers were persuaded for a time to regard it, not as European, but as an intrusive American example; brought thither soon after the discovery of this continent. The well known traveller Dr. Tschudi communicated to Müller's "Archiv für Anatomie" a memoir, in which he instituted a comparison between this Grafenegg skull and the compressed crania of ancient Peruvian cemeteries, whence he arrived at the conclusion that scientific men had been deceived in ascribing to any Asiatic or European source a skull which must have been originally derived from Peru. In confirmation of this, he recalled the fact that, widely as Austria and Peru are now severed, in the sixteenth century the Emperor Charles V embraced both within his dominions. He accordingly conceived it no improbable conjecture that the compressed skull was brought to Europe, as an object of curiosity; and being afterwards thrown aside, it was mistakenly assumed to pertain to native sepulture when recovered at Fuersbrunn in the present century.