

irregular, deeply marked by muscular impressions, with a frowning supra-nasal and supra orbital prominence; short but abruptly eminent nasal bones, rising suddenly out of the depression at the root of the nose; the forehead narrower, yet rising at about the same angle to nearly an equal elevation. The face of the *ancient Roman* was slightly longer, fully as wide in all parts, and sensibly wider in the frontal region, and as the angles and condyles of the lower jaw. This increased breadth at the two extremities, with want of elevation of forehead, imparted to the countenance that quadrangular appearance so commonly observed in the statues of ancient Romans of Consular and Imperial times. The calvarium in the *typical* British skull is marked by particular shortness; that of the ancient Roman viewed vertically is not remarkable for shortness, whilst it preserves a considerable breadth. It is fully half an inch longer than the British, and yet somewhat wider. Commencing in the frontal region, this width extends to the temporal in all its parts, and to the parietal. It is on this feature we are disposed to rest its peculiarity, and to call it *pealty-cephalic*, to express that especially expanded form belonging to it without marked loftiness. Probably ancient British and Roman skulls agree pretty closely in elevation. The well-known peculiarity in the nasal bones of the latter, mostly conjoined with remarkable breadth and elevation of the nasal process of the superior maxillary, is another typical mark.

The author next refers to two selected from several skulls obtained from burials on the Via Appia—to a series derived from the Roman cemetery without the south-western gate of Eburacum in 1852—to others obtained from the Roman Cemetery of Londinium in the Borough, dug up from the 'Roman level' about 16 feet below the present surface. He compares the physical characters of the ancient Romans with those which may still be observed in the modern population of Italy, and infers that 'notwithstanding the vicissitudes of all the ages intervening between the present and imperial times, we have just ground for believing that the indicia of the ancient Roman people are still unextinguished in their descendants.' He concludes by suggesting the inquiry into the degree in which these peculiarities of the Romans may be traced in the people of Britain."

Since this notice of the general subject of Roman Crania, and of the special example from Roman York was read before the British Association, the York Cranium has been figured in the beautiful and valuable work, the "*Crania Britannica*," now publishing under the joint editorship of Mr. Davis and Dr. Thurnam. We shall have an opportunity of noticing its earlier fasciculi in a future number.

D. W.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE.

FIFTH ORDINARY MEETING.—24th January, 1857.

The Hon. the Chief Justice DRAPER, C. B., President, in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Members:

GEORGE S. MCKAY, Esq., Toronto.

JAMES H. MORRIS, Esq., Toronto.

Dr. B. H. STAMERS, Toronto.

Dr. WALTER GEIKIE, Toronto.