

oped independent phases of progress in arts, science, and social policy, without any knowledge of each other. Nevertheless, we trace the singular practice of moulding the human head into abnormal forms, alike among the civilized races of Peru, the ancient lettered architects of Central America and Mexico, and among barbarous tribes both to the east and west of the Rocky Mountains. The earthworks of the Mississippi Valley Mound-builders have been found to cover artificially flattened crania; and the student of American native civilization, as he turns from pondering over the bas-reliefs and hieroglyphics on the sculptured slabs of Palenque and Uxmal, is startled to find that the cranial forms and strange physiognomical contour of the architectural race of Central America are reproduced among some of the most barbarous living tribes of Oregon and British Columbia. But, now that the study of craniology has been carried out by many intelligent observers, the fact is becoming familiar to us that artificial cranial deformation is no peculiarity of the American continent, either in ancient or modern times. The compressed crania of the Asiatic Macrocephali attracted the attention of Hippocrates five centuries before the Christian era; and Blumenbach, the foremost of European craniologists, figured in the first fasciculus of his "Decades Craniorum," in 1790, an imperfect compressed skull, received by him from Russia, with the information that it was probably that of a Tartar. This he unhesitatingly designated an Asiatic Macrocephalus. The conclusion thus arrived at has been sustained by subsequent discoveries; and as attention is more widely directed to the general subject the results are found to have a special value for the American ethnologist.

It seems probable that the name of Macrocephali, like that of our own Flatheads, did not properly belong to any single tribe, or even distinct race of ancient Asia; but had its origin in the effort, by artificial means, to produce the patrician head-form, primarily characteristic of some dominant, or conquering race. Among the Chinooks and other Flathead tribes of this continent, and also, as I believe, among the ancient builder-races of Yucatan and Peru, certain head-forms were recognized as an attribute of the ruling cast. Within the Flathead area of British Columbia the compressed and distorted skull is even now the symbol of aristocracy; and adopted captives, or slaves, are precluded from giving the prized deformity to their offspring. Hippocrates refers in