

Morton Collection in the Academy of Sciences at Philadelphia: "The extreme South-eastern section of the European ethnic area, occupying mainly the table-land of Iran, is represented in the Morton Collection by six Armenian, two Persian, and one Affghan skull. A general family resemblance pervades all these crania. They are all, with one exception, remarkable for the smallness of the face, and shortness of head. In the Armenian skull, the forehead is narrow and well formed, the convexity extending upwards and backwards towards the parietal protuberances and laterally towards the temporal bones. The greatest transverse diameter is between the parietal bones. This feature, combined with the flatness of the occiput, gives to the coronal region, an outline resembling a triangle with all three angles truncated, and the base of the triangle looking posteriorly. In fact, the whole form of the calvaria is such as to impress the mind of the observer with a sense of squareness and angularity. The dimensions of the orbits are moderate; the malar bones small, flat, and retreating; zygomatic processes slender, and the general expression of the face resembling that of the Circassians, from which latter it differs in being shorter." On nearly all those points, the Kertch skull closely corresponds to this description of Armenian Cranial characteristics. The only noticable exceptions are in the orbits, which may be described as somewhat large, but with their perpendicular diameter the greatest; and in the length of the face, which has more of the assigned Circassian dimensions. The formation of the lower jaw indicates a delicately pointed and small chin. Viewed altogether, the peculiar features of this skull are well defined, and sufficiently characteristic to enable an experienced craniologist to assign it, with little hesitation, to the Iranian group, with its included Georgians, Lesgians, Circassians, and Armenians. Of those the last named—to which the Kertch cranium seems by its most prominent peculiarities to belong,—possesses some characteristics of peculiar interest. In his "Varieties of Man," Dr. Latham places the Armenians foremost among his "unplaced stocks;" but regarding them from a philological point of view, he seems to consider them as in some respects presenting indications of a link between the Indo-European and the Semitic groups; but he also adds: "it is through the Armenian, that the transition from the Mongolidæ, to the Atlantidæ, is most likely to be recognised." Obtained as the skull now described has been, under peculiar and somewhat un-