

Such examples of markedly unsymmetrical skulls, thus recovered under circumstances which preclude the idea of their irregular conformation being traceable to posthumous sources of change, have an important bearing on the general question of typical and abnormal cranial forms. Mr. J. Barnard Davis appears indeed to have entertained an opposite view. In describing the Juniper Green skull he remarks: "There is a depression from about the posterior third of the sagittal suture to the tip of the occipital bone; and a want of symmetry in the posterior superior region of the parietals, that on the right side being less prominent than that on the left, — *not improbably a posthumous deformation.*"* So also in his description of the Lesmurdie skull. After defining its peculiar platycephalic form with unusual lateral development in the post-parietal region, Mr. Davis adds: "There is also a want of symmetry in the two sides of this post-parietal swelling. The right side is not equally tumid with the left. Not improbably this irregularity of form, in which this skull agrees closely with that from the Juniper Green cist, *may arise from posthumous distortion.*"† In those remarks the learned craniologist may be presumed to have overlooked circumstances strongly impressed on my own mind, from witnessing the exhumation of the Juniper Green skull, and observing its unsymmetrical conformation and flattened occiput on lifting it from the cist, where it had lain for centuries, unsubjected to the slightest pressure. To whatever cause such irregularity or distortion may be ascribed, its origin must be traced in such examples to some action operating during life. Of the occurrence of posthumous cranial distortion there can be no question. In the remarkable example of an abnormal skull in Dr. Thurnam's collection, recovered from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Stowe, in Buckinghamshire, there are indications, especially in the gaping sutures on the base, that it has been subjected to an extraordinary amount of oblique compression, producing changes wholly incompatible with the exercise of important vital functions.‡ The same is no less obvious in the skull recovered from an Indian grave on the site of the ancient Hochelaga, at Montreal, and described by me in a previous number of this Journal.§ The posthumous origin of the distortion is placed beyond doubt in both

* *Crania Britannica*, Dec. II. 15. (3)

† *Ibid.*, Dec. II. 16. (5)

‡ *Archæol. Journal*, viii. p. 96. *Cran. Brit.* Dec. I. p. 38.

§ *Canadian Journal*, Vol. VI., p. 414.