

March 6, 1915

**Canada**  
**Geological Survey**  
**Museum Bulletin No. 9.**

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SERIES, NO. 4.

---

*The Glenoid Fossa in the Skull of the Eskimo.*

By F. H. S. KNOWLES.

The glenoid fossae in the human skull are concave depressions on the basal aspect of the temporal bones. Each fossa is divided into two parts by the Glaserian fissure; the anterior portion concave, smooth, and bounded in front by the eminentia articularis, serves for the articulation of the condyle of the lower jaw; the posterior portion, rough and bounded behind by the tympanic plate, serves for the reception of part of the parotid gland. It is with the anterior portion that I intend to deal, and my object in this paper is to show that in the skulls of those Eskimo who have existed under the primitive conditions of life habitual to their race, the surface for articulation with the mandible is not deeply concave as in the skulls of modern highly civilized races, but tends on the whole to be shallow, and in many instances very remarkably so. I have examined numbers of skulls belonging to various primitive races and in many of them one can pick out crania presenting flattening of this fossa in a more or less marked degree. W. L. H. Duckworth in his "Studies in Anthropology," page 107, notes in his description of some aboriginal Australian crania in the Cambridge University Museum: "It is here to be remarked that the glenoid fossae of this specimen (No. 2137) are very shallow and flattened, the flattening being most pronounced in the region of the an-