

in 1790, an imperfect compressed skull, received by him from Russia, with the information that it was probably a Tartar, and which he designates an Asiatic Macrocephalus. Imperfect as were his data, his conclusion was probably just; as subsequent inquiry has led to the discovery of various examples of the same class of compressed and elongated crania on ancient historical sites in the Crimea, and around the shores of the Euxine.

In 1843, Rathke communicated to Müller's "Archiv für Anatomie" the figure of another skull, strikingly resembling the one previously engraved by Blumenbach. Like the former, it is very imperfect, but corresponds to it in exhibiting the same depression of the frontal bone.— This example is described by the author as having been procured from an ancient burial-place near Kertch, in the Crimea. And, in 1849, M. Rathke published a memoir, in which he investigated the subject more fully; and showed that the vicinity of Kertch had yielded other illustrations of the same remarkable artificially modified crania of the ancient world, corresponding to those of Peru and the tribes of North America bordering on the Pacific. In illustration of the origin of the Crimean Macrocephalic crania, M. Rathke draws attention to the notices, by Greek and Roman authors, of the ancient tribes who derived their name from the singular practice of elongating the head during infancy. Hippocrates, in his "De Aere, Aquis, et Locis," speaks of them as a people among whom "those are thought the most noble who have the longest heads." In this respect, the modern American flat-head tribes, as well as the older Peruvians, exhibit a remarkable correspondence in the ideas by which all have been actuated. Among the flat-head tribes, the compressed and distorted skull is the symbol of aristocracy; while the slaves of the tribe are rigidly precluded from giving the prized deformity to the heads of their offspring. Other distorted crania, found in the neighbourhood of Vienna, have been ascribed to the Avars or the Huns of Attila. But these have been made the subject of a curious commentary, singularly illustrative of the essential correspondence between the artificially modified crania of the Old and New World. Dr. Tschudi, the Swiss traveller, whose works on the "Antiquities and Ethnology of Peru" have justly attracted attention, published a memoir on one of the Austrian abnormal crania, in the interval between the first and second publications of M. Rathke, in which he maintained the identity of the Austrian and Peruvian skulls, and traced the origin of the former to the connection between Germany and Peru in the sixteenth century, when both were under the common rule of the Emperor Charles V. At that period, as he assumed, certain artificially compressed Peruvian crania had been brought over, along with other curious relics of the New World; and having been thrown aside, they thus turned up, some three centuries afterwards, to