

Attracted as my attention was, to the marked contrast between the protruding occiput of the elongated dolichocephalic, or kumbecephalic skull, recognisable among some Scottish primitive crania that came under my observation, and the abrupt, truncated occiput of the opposite type, I was the more prepared to suspect the exaggeration of the latter peculiar conformation by artificial means; and this has been confirmed as I have become familiar with the characteristic peculiarities of American artificially distorted crania, by recognising in them the constant occurrence of the same unsymmetrical irregularities as are frequent in British brachycephalic crania. The Lesmurdie skull in the Scottish Museum, already referred to, is marked by great inequality in relative lateral development, especially where an unusual post-parietal expansion gives to it its most peculiar character; and the unequal parietal development, or bulging out on the one side, of the Juniper Green skull, is all the more deserving of attention from the precise knowledge we possess of the posthumous influences to which it had been subject. The concomitants of the Lesmurdie skull were little less striking in this respect. It was recovered from a cist formed of slabs of mica-slate. Though constructed with care, and neatly paved with a flooring of water-worn stones embedded in loam, the crevices of the cist had not been so effectually closed as to prevent the micaceous sand and earth from being carried in, so as to fill about three-fourths of the narrow chamber. This accumulation sloped away with diminishing depth towards the northern end, where the skull lay on its left side, so that the earth only partially imbedded it, leaving the right side uncovered. A neatly ornamented urn, as in the Juniper Green cist, stood behind the skull, with its rim protruding above the sand, from which it was recovered in a perfect state. These facts, along with those already detailed in reference to the circumstances under which the Juniper Green skull was found, are important, from the proof they furnish that to whatever cause the unsymmetrical irregularity may be traced, it cannot be ascribed to posthumous compression. The slight accumulation of infiltrated sand in the Lesmurdie cist did not cover the skull; while that at Juniper Green was free even from such trifling adventitious elements. There the skeleton lay within its narrow sepulchral chamber so entirely protected from any external influences, that we fancied we could detect some slight traces of its linen covering, especially on the larger leg bones.