

Human Skulls,
Ancient and Modern.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir—It would seem that there is an attempt to ascertain the origin of the human skull. The almost extinct idea of man's evolution from the monkey, for we see of late a lot of "archaeologists" talking about "skulls of earliest types of men" that by implication at least hint at the brute origin of man. The latest attempt of this kind describes a skull supposed to have been found in a Rhodesian mine or cave. Professor Smith, Professor of Anatomy at the London University, to whom this skull has been submitted for examination, pronounced it to be "the skull of the most remarkable type of manhood and quite new to science."

"In my opinion," he says, "it is undoubtedly a new species of the human family, if not a new genus." Professor Smith is evidently desirous of creating a sensation, but shrinks from the responsibility. Note the language he uses, how it hedges, how it avoids any direct statement, it is not the language of science, it is not the language of the man who is willing to assume responsibility for his words. It may be asked why Professor Smith (who is a professor of anatomy) and not some noted pathologist or anthropologist was called upon for an opinion. The whole story looks fishy. It may be intended for a hoax, but if so, it is none the less reprehensible. The moral world to-day is in a very disturbed state, and men's minds are groping for an anchorage from which they have been violently wrenched by the happenings of the last few fatal years. We need to-day as never before the calmness of a very dangerous element. Reading that article in Saturday's Advocate it is noticed that no date is assigned to the origin of this skull. That in itself is a very bad omen, when one comes to a consideration of the problems it introduces. Professor Smith refers to a time antedating the Pyramids, as a modern period in human history. This is news to most of us. I feel assured. Looked upon geologically it would be considered modern, but unless I am mistaken this takes us back to the very dawn of human history, as far as we have any knowledge of it. Skulls at least five thousand years old have been studied by such eminent scholars as Virchow, the great German pathologist and greatest of living anthropologists, according to expert opinion, and no change of any character discovered. Virchow claims that his study of skulls shows him no development in the intellectual order in human life during the long period of human history. This should be enough to settle the question of man's evolution from a lower order. Let garulous, pretended scientists say what they will.

Say what they will, all this talk about skulls going the rounds of the newspapers is but a manifestation of man's drifting away from the safe anchorage of religious conviction. The storm which set in on the world in 1914 is still rocking men's minds; then old convictions were uprooted, and just as the storm of war destroyed the beauties of the French countryside, tore down lovely forest trees and made chaos of smiling vineyards, so the storm of passion swept in its world embracing confusion over the souls and minds of men, reducing them to the level of the primal savage whose religion was murder, whose condition was degradation. Men are trying hard now to regain some secure haven where they may have something firm to tie to in the midst of a reeling world. Some aim at the negation of all that pertains to the supernatural, as do those who would revive the belief in man's simian origin, while there are others who swing to the other extreme, and in the pretended light of a new discovery wallow in a degrading superstition. When men like Sir Oliver Lodge attest their faith in remarkable psychic occurrences, it is any wonder that a weakened world is willing to follow them to the extreme absurdity of the ouija board. It is pitiful to see men rolling from side to side in a state of mental intoxication, who were meant to walk upright and straight into the eye of the sun. The world will get back again to a state of pride, and this will be attained all the sooner if men cease at once to babble like the monkeys. Their abbreviation makes them believe they are, and false science gives way to correct teaching. Those who think they are monkeys should get back to the forest and quit interfering with the spiritual destinies of a higher order, the genus homo.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR ENGLISH,
Dec. 19, 1921.

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