

special interest attaches to the remains brought to light in 1858, in the rock shelter of Cro-magnon, in the valley of the Vézère. Three men, a woman and a child, had all been buried in the cave. From their remains it is seen that the race was unusually tall, and bore equally little resemblance to the Neanderthal or "Canstadt" type, or to the modern Eskimo. The best preserved skulls—those of an old man and a woman,—are finely proportioned, with large, high foreheads, and great cerebral capacity. M. Broca stated that of the man to be fully 1590 cubic centimetres, or 96.99 cubic inches; and Dr. Pruner-Bey says of two of the male skulls and that of the female, they "have a cranial capacity much superior to the average of the present day." It may remind us of Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace's remark that "natural selection could only have endowed savage man with a brain a little superior to that of an ape, whereas he actually possesses one very little inferior to that of a philosopher."

Whatever differences of opinion affect the determination of the probable age of the Cro-magnon race, they unquestionably pertain to a period so remote that the very earliest historical traces of man in southern France scarcely seem to bring us any nearer to the period which they represent. Their physical characteristics have, therefore, a special significance. The skulls are dolichocephalic, with the frontal bone high and well arched, a graceful fronto-occipital curve, and well-balanced symmetrical proportion throughout. The profile of the old man indicates an expressive contour, the face long, the nose very prominent, and the frontal sinuses but slightly developed for a male. The full face presents a well-proportioned oval, with pointed chin. The one feature detracting from its otherwise attractive expression would seem to have been the unique character of the long and narrow eyes, as indicated by the unusual form of the orbits. At the same time it is to be noted that this well proportioned head bears ample evidence of the exposed life of the wild hunter. The features are rugged, as of one subject, through a long life, to all the hardships of a rigorous climate; and numerous strongly marked impressions of muscular insertions accord with the conditions of savage life.

This is the type of an altogether remarkable prehistoric people, the artistic race of the palæolithic era, to whose skill we owe the contemporary etchings and carvings of the mammoth, the fossil-horse, the reindeer, and other mammals of that strangely remote