

termine the *normal form*, and then to ascertain the usual deviations from it. This simple method, which has been employed in the elucidation of other natural objects, will reduce the subject to as great order as it admits of, and render description and delineation easy to be understood. A knowledge of the general character of the British skull is not to be obtained from the examination of those belonging to one tribe only, but from a comparative investigation of crania derived from many. It is believed by Mr. Davis that a skull derived from the Green-Gate-Hill Barrow, exhibits the true *typical form* of the ancient British cranium. Its most marked distinctive features are, the shortness of the face, which is, at the same time, rugged with elevations and depressions; the indications of wild passions operating on the muscles of expression; zygomatic arches not unusually expanded; the nose short, projecting at an angle too great to be graceful; immediately above its root rises an abrupt prominence occasioned by the large frontal sinuses, which passes on the sides into the elevated superciliary ridges, and produces a deep depression between the nose and forehead, giving to the profile a savage character; the osseous case for the brain upon the whole not large, rather than small; the occipito-frontal diameter somewhat contracted, and parietal diameter good. It ranges with the *orthognathic* crania, or those having upright jaws, and inclines to the *brachy-cephalic* division. It presents the uncivilized character, but from the mass of the brain it has evidently belonged to a savage possessed of power, and fitted to profit by contact with men of other races.

Having thus enumerated the chief peculiarities of the *typical* British cranium, Dr. Davis remarks; we may advert to its leading *aberrant forms*, which admit of being arranged in a simple intelligible method. They will be easily understood as the *abbreviated*, or strictly *brachy-cephalic*; the *elongated*, or *dolicho-cephalic*; the *elevated*, or, to continue the terms, the *acro-cephalic*; and the *expanded* or *platy-cephalic*.

It must be added, however, such a system as that adopted by Mr. Davis here, of classing under the convenient title of "*aberrant forms*" cranial peculiarities of the widest possible diversity, seems irreconcilable with the law of permanency of ethnic forms. Unless indeed guarded to an extent not at all apparent in the above remarks, it would put an end to all ethnical deductions from cranial or osteological evidence. The grounds, however, on which so comprehensive a statement is based may be looked for in the forthcoming "*Crania Britannica*" of the author. Meanwhile he thus partially alludes to some of them:—

Notwithstanding these aberrant forms, the whole series bears the impress of so many similar features, as to shew that it constitutes one natural group. The dolicho-cephalic has been supposed to indicate an "Allophylian" or "pre-Celtic" race, but it may probably be regarded as more properly a family peculiarity in some cases, and accidental in others, in which it has been met with in the same Barrow, and in a position proving the interment to be equally ancient, with a calvarium of the normal form. Stress has been laid upon the circumstance that it has occurred in *Chambered Barrows*, resembling the famous one of New Grange. The best informed antiquaries accord to these Barrows an extremely early date, but, that they have altogether preceded simpler and ruder sepulchral cairns, and were erected by a distinct antecedent race, appear to stand in need of much confirmatory evidence before they can be admitted with tolerable confidence.