

BONES OF THE HUMAN SKELETON.

PELVIS.

INTRODUCTION.

Anatomists have long recognised that marked sexual differences exist in the male and female pelvis, and obstetricians have carefully studied this part of the skeleton in women in its relations to the mechanism of parturition. Numerous measurements, more especially of the cavity of the pelvis, with its brim and outlet, in the principal European races, have been recorded by observers in their respective countries, so that the normal form, size, and proportions of the pelvis in these races have been satisfactorily ascertained. Some isolated observations on the form and dimensions of the pelvis in non-European races were also made at the end of the last century and the beginning of the present. P. Camper pointed out¹ in 1785 some differences which existed between the subpubic angle of a woman from Celebes and a Negro as compared with the European. Von Sömmerring in the same year² published some remarks on the characters of the pelvis in the Negro. In 1797 M. Rollin³ observed that the pelvis in the Indian women near the Baie des Français, north-west America, was characterised by its large diameters. In 1817 Cuvier described⁴ the pelvis of the so-called Hottentot Venus.

The publication by Vrolik in 1826 of an important memoir on the diversities of the pelvis in the different races of men gave a new impetus to the study of this branch of anatomy, and since that time numerous valuable memoirs on the race characters of the pelvis have appeared, the most important of which are named in the following list :—

VROLIK, G., *Considerations sur la Diversité des Bassins de différentes races humaines*, 1826. *Beschouwing van het verschil der bekkens in onderscheidene volkstammen*, Amsterdam, 1826. Also *Musée Vrolik* ; Catalogue par J. L. Dusseau, Amsterdam, 1865.

WEBER, M. J., *Die Lehre von den Ur- und Rassen-formen der Schädel und Becken des Menschen*, Düsseldorf, 1830 ; and previously in v. Gräfe u. v. Walther's *Journ. der Chirurgie*, 1823.

¹ *Verhandlingen der Bataafsche Genootschap te Rotterdam*, Bd. i.

² *Körperliche Verschiedenheit des Negers vom Europäer*, Frankfurt und Mainz, 1785.

³ *Voyage de la Pérouse autour du Monde*, publié by Milet Mureau, t. iv., 1797.

⁴ *Mémoires du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle*, t. iii., 1817.