

GENERAL SUMMARY.

It is perhaps scarcely necessary that I should remind the reader that the one hundred and forty-three crania described and tabulated in this Report are from aboriginal people, living in a state of uncivilisation, in Southern Africa, Southern America, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. That they are uncultivated aborigines is, however, a fact which should not be lost sight of in connection with this general summary of their characters.

In the first place I shall refer to noteworthy individual peculiarities observed in these crania. No skull was metopic, though in a young male Australian, a Loyalty Islander, and in two New Guinea skulls traces of the frontal suture were seen in the glabella, and in the Mallicollese it extended as high as the ophryon. The non-persistence of the frontal suture in the adult skulls of savages has been referred to by other craniologists, and is to be associated with the growth in thickness and weight of the cranial walls, the comparative simplicity of the sutures of the cranial vault, and the tendency to ossification of the sutures in adult life, which can so well be observed in the skulls of Australians, Chatham Islanders, and African negroes. In no skull was the malar bone either wholly or partially divided into two by a suture.¹ Wormian bones were present in the lambdoidal suture in Fuegian, Bush, Australian, Admiralty, Sandwich, Chatham, and Loyalty Islanders, Mallicollese and New Zealand crania; in some cases they were of considerable size, and in one Chatham islander attained the magnitude of an interparietal bone. No specific ethnological signification attaches to the presence of these bones. I have seen large interparietal bones in many European crania, and the view that an interparietal bone, the *os incæ* of Tschudi, had some special significance as a character of the Peruvian skull has now for many years been abandoned.²

In the crania of three Australians, two Admiralty Islanders, two Sandwich Islanders,

¹ Much stress has been laid by Prof. Rolleston on division of the malar bone in the Bush skull (account of Bush skulls in his collected papers, *op. cit.*). In his memoir, as well as in Prof. Wenzel Gruber's monograph, *Ueber das zweigetheilte Jochbein*, Wien, 1873, a copious bibliography may be found. Subsequently Dr. A. B. Meyer has communicated to the Berlin Anthropological Society (*Zeitschr. f. Ethn.* Bd. xiii. p. 330, 1881) a paper on this subject. He has met with two skulls, a Parisian and a Saxon, in 898 crania examined.

² See my paper, On some Congenital Deformities of the Human Cranium, *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, July and August 1865.