

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF SKULLS.

EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In 'Varieties of the Human Species, Principles and Method of Classification' (Le Varieta Umane. Principi e methodo di classificazione. Di Giuseppe Sergi. Torino, 1893), which constitutes one of the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 1894, the skulls are grouped as follows:

NORMA VERTICALIS.

1. Ellipsoid (ellipsoides).
2. Pentagonoid (pentagonoides).
3. Rhomboid (rhomboides).
4. Ovoid (ovoides).
5. Sphenoid (sphenoides).
6. Spheroid (sphæroides).
7. Byrsoid (byrsoides).
8. Parallelepipedoid (parallelepipedoides.)
9. Cylindroid (cylindroides).
10. Cuboid (cuboides).
11. Trapezoid (trapezoides).
12. Acmonoid (acmonoides).
13. Lophocephalic (lophocephalus).
14. Chomatocephalus (chomatocephalus).
15. Platycephalic (platycephalus).
16. Skopeloid (skopeloides).

In 'Observations upon the Cranial Forms of the American Aborigines based upon Specimens contained in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' by J. Aitken Meigs, Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1866, 232, occurs the following classification of skulls:

A—Pyramidal or Pyramidocephalic Form.

B—Oval or Oidocephalic Form.

I Cymbecephalic Form.

II Narrow Oval Form (Stenocephalic).

III Broad Oval Form (Eurycephalic).

IV Barrel-shaped or Cylindrical Form (Cylindricephalic).

V Angular Oblong Form.

C—Arched or Hypsecephalic Form.

I Archecephali.

II Phoxocephali.

D—Wedge-shaped or Sphenocephalic Form.

E—Flat or Platycephalic Form (Subglobular).

F—Globular or Sphærocephalic Form.

G—Square, Cuboidal or Cubicephalic Form.

The two classifications are sufficiently alike to suggest comparisons. Confining my remarks to the forms in Meig's table, which are best illustrated in the *norma verticalis*, I note that:

Oidocephalic = Ovoides.

Cymbecephali = Ellipsoides & Pentagonoides.

Cylindricephali = Cylindroides.

Angularly Oblong Form = Rhomboides.

Archecephali = Trapezoides & Acmonoides.

Phoxocephalic = Lophocephalus.

Sphenocephalic = Sphenoides.

Platycephalic = Platycephalic.

Sphærocephalic = Sphæroides.

Cubicephalic = Cuboides.

Thus six out of sixteen names of Sergi's classification are included in Meig's classification. I conclude from comparison of Meig's types with Sergi's figures that the forms are identical.

Ellipsoides and Pentagonoides are included in Cymbecephali; Rhomboides is the same as the skulls included under 'Angularly Oblong Form'; Lophocephalus is a synonym of Phoxocephalic; Parallelepipedoides appears to be a variety of Cylindricephali; Trapezoides and Acmonoides are included in Archecephali.

So long as Sergi endeavors to establish a classification which he desires to be tested by the methods of zoölogy and botany (p. 60), the names he proposes must be judged by the law of priority of publication.

HARRISON ALLEN.

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