



Pygmies in Europe

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“The Rock Paintings and Carvings of the Australian Aborigines.” By R. H. MATHEWS, Esq.

PYGMIES *in* EUROPE.

By Professor J. KOLLMANN, M.D., D.Sc. (Dubl.).

NEAR Schaffhausen, in Switzerland, a settlement has been found which was inhabited during three pre-historic periods, viz., the palæolithic, the neolithic, and the metallic. The different periods were distinctly separated from one another by each stratum being differently coloured. The palæolithic stratum contained a large amount of broken bones, mostly of the reindeer, and, in lesser numbers, those of the horse, the arctic fox, the bear, and other animals, but no bones of human beings, only worked flakes.

This stratum was covered by a great layer of breccia, 80 cm. in thickness, containing angular fragments of the calcareous rocks close by. As this layer contained no trace of human industry, from which it may be inferred that a long period—numbers of centuries—probably intervened, before another human race again settled at Schweizersbild.

The next stratum contained articles characteristic of the so-called neolithic period in the history of mankind. The art of making pottery and of cooking, had by this time been introduced, as is proved by potsherds being found on the settlement, as well as a great quantity of ashes, which gave a grey tinge to the stratum. The animals which supplied the food of these new human beings were also different from the species of former times. The reindeer existed no longer in this latitude, but, instead of it, we find the stag, the roe, the black bear, the moor-ox, and other animals. This neolithic stratum has an average thickness of 40 cm. It is finally covered by a

layer of humus 40–50 cm. thick. During the formation of this last stratum, man had ceased to settle for any length of time under the shelter of the over-hanging rocks, here placed in a semicircle, for protection against northerly and north-easterly winds. The implements found in this stratum were few in number and of an inferior kind, therefore the so-called metallic period need not be further alluded to. Very different is the importance of the neolithic period. In the stratum formed during this time many human beings were buried, adults as well as children. Dr. Nüesch (from the College of Schaffhausen), who discovered and explored the settlement with the utmost care, found more than twenty interments in this stratum.

After due examination of the remains, I find among those interred eleven children, from the new-born up to the age of seven years. Some of them were buried with particular care, having been surrounded with stones, and still wearing a serpula necklace. Among the adults were found :

(1) Skeletal remains of normal-sized persons of the usual European type, such as represents the actual population down to the present day. Fig. 1.

(2) Portions of skeletons of small human beings, which, considering all accounts we possess about pygmies of other continents, must be regarded as pygmies of the neolithic period of Europe Fig. 1.

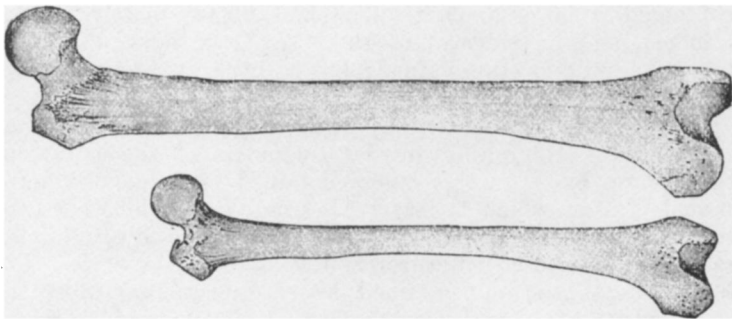


FIG. 1. FEMUR OF A TALL MAN AND OF A PYGMY FROM SCHWEIZERSBILD.

The remains of these two very different types were found lying side by side in the neolithic stratum, and showed no perceptible difference in the manner of their burial. From this we may conclude that the people lived together in peaceful harmony, notwithstanding their great difference of race.

The remains of four full-grown pygmies were anatomically evident ; probably there was another of these little individuals

buried in tomb No. 9, but the proofs are not sufficiently clear to make us fully sure of the fact.

The stature was ascertained according to the methods indicated by Manouvrier and Rollett, from the length of the femur. Though the results of both these methods are somewhat uncertain in consequence of variations arising from individuality, sex, and race differences, which may amount to as much as 70 mm., still they enable us to prove to a certainty the diminutive size of these pygmies in comparison with full-sized races. Measured according to Manouvrier's method, I get the following results:—

Stature of No. 2	...	1,416 mm.
" " " 12	...	1,355 mm.
" " " 14	...	1,500 mm.

According to Messrs. Sarasin, the medium stature of the Veddas of Ceylon is 1,575 mm., while the average stature of the three European pygmies is 1,424 mm., so that they are shorter even than the Veddas by 100 to 150 mm., or more.

Although these results of the comparison of measurements exclude every possibility of error, we had still another opportunity of proving the existence of pygmies at Schweizersbild. M. Mantegazza very kindly granted me permission to examine the skeleton of an Andaman islander in the Anthropological Museum of Florence, the Andamanese being one of the varieties of pygmies. M. Regalia kindly assisted me in the measurements. The femoral length of this skeleton is 424 mm. The femoral length of Schweizersbild skeletons is as follows:—

No. 2	...	369 mm.
" 12	...	355 "
" 14	...	393 "

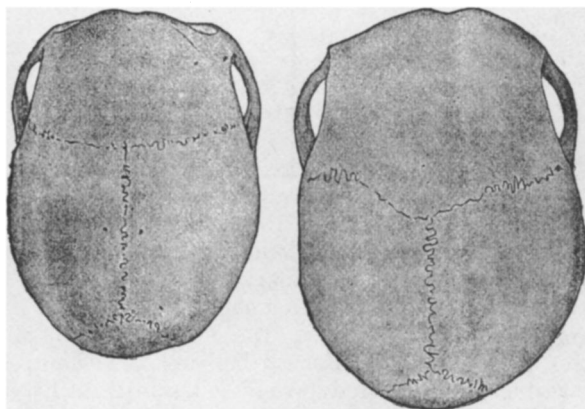


FIG. 2. NORMA VERTICALIS; SKULL OF A PYGMY OF SICILY AND OF A TALL MAN OF EUROPE.

The stature of the Andaman is 1,500 mm. If therefore this Andaman islander, with a femoral length of more than 400 mm. has a stature of only 1,500 mm., the pygmies, with a femoral length of less than 400 mm., must surely have been of very low stature.

Flower has had an opportunity of examining twenty-nine skeletons of the natives of the Andaman Islands. The average length of the femur is from 398·7 to 393·4, in the males, and, in the females, from 378 to 380·4. The average height of the males, calculated from twenty-five femora, is 1·431, or 4 feet 8·3 inches. In the case of the females, the height is 1·383, or 4 feet 6·4 inches. From these figures of the femur length it may be seen that my estimate of the height of the European pygmies of the neolithic period is not understated, but most liberally calculated.

	Tall race.	Pygmy race, Sicily.	Indices.	Tall race.	Pygmy race, Sicily.
Capacity	1460	1031	Cephalic index ..	73·3	73·5
Length	191	162	Height, length, index	78·3	80·2
Breadth	141	119	Breadth, height, index	100	91·0
Height	150	130	Face index	61·9	72·5
Frontal width ..	104	88	Mid-face index ..	42·3	44·4
Circumference ..	533	468	Orbital index ..	77·5	83·7
Frontal arc	138	113	Nasal index	51·0	60·2
Parietal arc	122	130	Palatal index ..	82·7	118·4
Occipital arc ..	118	104			
Total	378	347			
Facial length ..	88	87			
Maxillary height ..	60	53			
Bi-zygomatic width ..	142	120			
Orbital width ..	40	37			
Orbital height ..	31	31			
Nasal height	49	41			
Nasal width	26	25			
Palatal length ..	52	38			
Palatal width ..	43	45			
Basal length	110	81			
Occipital length ..	81	51			

The tables contain the measurements of the skull of an average European, and those of the skull of a Sicilian pygmy for the use of which I have to thank Professor Sergi (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). The difference is remarkable between the absolute figures, thus the large skull has a capacity (Broca) of 1460 cc., the pygmy skull only 1031 cc., the former is 191 mm. long, the latter only 142 mm. For further details I would refer to my paper which has appeared in the "Zeitschrift für Ethnologie" (Berlin) 1894.

As to the remains of adult males of the taller race found in seven of the tombs, I found the length of a femur from tomb No. 5 to measure 454 mm., which gives a stature of 1,662 mm., the normal stature of the taller European races. I found portions of several other skeletons from the neolithic stratum referable to some more individuals of the taller race, but was unable to take satisfactory measurements of them, owing to their imperfect state.

The results of this examination prove that pygmies have lived at one time at Schweizersbild. They must not be considered as pathologically degenerated people, since Professor R. Virchow states expressly that their bones are of normal structure. Consequently we find here a miniature type of man with distinct anatomical characters, which differs as much from the taller size varieties of mankind, as do the pygmies of Africa, Asia, and the Asiatic Archipelago.

The discovery at Schweizersbild of the contemporary existence of pygmies and normal sized types during the neolithic period being unique, would certainly have been looked upon with some incredulity. But while I was engaged upon the examination of the settlement, Sergi, assisted by Dr. Mantia, discovered some living pygmies in Sicily and Sardinia. Sergi has also a fine collection of skulls of these pygmies, in which the cranial capacity is 400–500 cc. lower than that of the taller European races. The pygmies in Sicily are of very small stature, being generally under 1,500 mm. Small people are not only met with in Sicily and Sardinia, where, in several districts, they form 14 per cent. of the population, but all throughout Italy, according to Sergi, who quotes from the enlistments for the army. He believes them to exist also in Russia, as he found some very small skulls in the craniological collections there, similar to those from Sicily.



FIG. 3. NORMA FRONTALIS OF THE SAME SKULLS AS IN FIG. 2.

As regards the appearance of these living pygmies in Sicily, they seem to have the looks of miniature Europeans. For further particulars, I refer to M. Sergi's memoirs on the subject. As for myself, the point I particularly wish to impress is that to the normally tall varieties of man in Europe must be added smaller types which have their own special place in the anthropological system. These latter are not simply diminutive examples of the tall races, but represent a distinct species of mankind, which is found in several localities dispersed over the globe. We are led to believe that these smaller varieties have been the predecessors of the now predominant types of full-sized humanity. To prove this argument to its full extent is the task of anatomical science, and I beg to direct the special attention of anatomists to these diminutive individuals wherever an opportunity may occur of examining any of them.

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The HASTINGS KITCHEN MIDDENS. By W. J. LEWIS ABBOTT,
F.G.S.

[WITH PLATES X, XI.]

As one stands upon the high ground to the north of Fairlight Glen and contemplates the outstretched panorama, what a remarkable record of battles lies stretched out before him. Now