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[WITH SIX PLATES.]



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Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, Mass., Vol. VIII., pp. 95-284.

Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Vol. XIV., by the Society.

Tables des comptes rendus des seances d'Academie des Sciences Paris, by the Society.

Die Bevolkerung der Erbe, by Free Public Library Sydney.

Louis Agassiz's Monograph of the Echinoderms, by Percival Pedley, Esq.,

Zoology of the Voyage of the Coquille, with atlas of plates, four volumes ; Grey's Handlist of Birds, three volumes ; Huxley's Elements of Comparative Anatomy, one volume ; Macleay's Catalogue of Australian Fishes, two volumes ; Transactions Ent. Soc. of New South Wales, two volumes ; by the Honble. William Macleay, F.L.S., &c.

PAPERS READ.

CRANIAL DEFORMATION OF NEW-BORN CHILDREN AT THE ISLAND MABIAK, AND OTHER ISLANDS OF TORRES STRAITS, AND OF WOMEN OF THE S.E. PENINSULA OF NEW GUINEA.

BY N. DE MIKLOUHO-MACLAY.

In April, 1880, visiting the islands of Torres Straits, I had the opportunity of seeing, at Mabiak, an interesting operation performed on the heads of new-born children. During the first weeks after the birth of the child the mothers are accustomed to spend many hours of the day compressing the heads of their infants in a certain direction, with the object of giving them a quite conical shape. I have seen it performed daily and on many children, and have convinced myself that the deformation, which is perceivable in the adults, is the result of this *manual* deformation only. This observation was specially interesting to me,

remembering having read, many years before, the opinion of the celebrated biologist and anthropologist, K. E. de Baer, member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, who would not believe that a manual pressure could have such an effect on the skull. [*Vide* K. E. de Baer, *Ueber Papuas and Alfuren, 'Memoires de l'Acad. Imp. des Sciences de St. Petersbourg,' 6 serie, t. viii. 1859, page 331.*] K. E. de Baer expresses this opinion, analysing the information given by J. Macgillivray [Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Rattlesnake; London 1852, vol. I. page 189], he thinks that the observations of Macgillivray, who has seen the same above-mentioned manual deformation performed on children at Cape York, are not exact enough. Remembering this contradiction, I was careful to decide the contested point, and now, after careful examination, measurements, and inquiries, I believe the question may be regarded as settled, and that the information given by Macgillivray about the head deformation at Cape York was not too hasty, and was correct. As far as I know, it will be the only well authenticated example of cranial deformation by means of *manual* pressure.

The deforming of heads at Mabiak is an instance of an intentional deformation, made for the sake of a singular idea of beauty; but in the village Bara-Bara, on the east end of New Guinea, and in other villages on the South Coast of this Island, I had a chance of observing numerous cases of not intentional distortion of heads of adult females, in consequence of an established practice. The females in those parts of New Guinea are accustomed to carry heavy burdens in large bags, the band of which serves as a handle and rests across the head, a little behind the *sutura coronalis*. As very young girls have to begin to assist their mothers in the household, this mode of carrying the heavy bags has resulted in forming a transversal and saddle-shaped depression of the head corresponding to the anterior parts of the *Ossa parietalia*. I have inspected a few hundred heads

of females* for the purpose of measuring the index of cranial breadth, amongst which I found many dozens of the well-marked above-mentioned transversal depressions. Many elderly females had the greater part of the depression quite strongly marked, and I found that in some cases the depression was not less than from 3 to 4 millemetres. I possess a skull from one of these villages of the south coast of New Guinea, on which the above-described saddle-ridge is well marked, and I believe this acquired cranial deformation has a great chance of being more or less transmitted from generation to generation by inheritance, and is therefore still more worthy of record. A more complete account of these cases of cranial deformation, with measurements and illustrations, will be found in my letter to Professor R. Virchow, of Berlin. [Vide *Sitzungsberichte der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, 1881.]

DESCRIPTIONS OF AUSTRALIAN MICRO-LEPIDOPTERA.

BY E. MEYRICK, B.A.

VI. TORTRICINA. (Continued)

The present instalment concludes the *Tortricina*, so far as they are at present known. It treats of the two remaining families, the *Grapholithidæ* and the *Conchylidæ*, as defined in the preceding paper (No. V.). These families are far less prominent in the Australian region than they are in the Northern hemisphere, and especially in Europe; their main groups are indeed wholly absent and the representatives of the families consist chiefly of specially developed groups, with scattered outliers of some northern types. Descriptions are here given of 55 species, of which 45 are new to science.

* Married females in many parts of New Guinea have the habit of shaving their hair, and present, therefore, for a biologist a more suitable object for cranial measurement than the men with their large frizzled wigs.