

that, if sufficiently reliable data are obtainable, a classification of the pelvis into readily recognisable groups would be extremely convenient, and would save much time and trouble in description. Craniologists must be for ever grateful to Anders Retzius for grouping the skulls of the races of men into the two great divisions of dolichocephalic and brachycephalic, whilst the separation from the more extreme forms of these groups of an intermediate or mesaticephalic division by Paul Broca has been of material service.

Owing to the paucity of pelvises in our museums as compared with the number of crania of the best known races, we are not in a position to speak with so much certainty of the characteristic pelvic form as we are of the head form in so many races, but there is now I think, sufficient material belonging to a number of races to enable me to offer for the consideration of anthropologists a classification which may, I trust, be regarded as satisfactory.

The dimensions which I shall take as presenting, in my judgment, the most reliable data for comparison, are the conjugate and transverse diameters of the pelvic brim, and the classification will be based on the modifications in the range of the brim index—the so-called pelvic index. I shall not, however, as was done by Zaaier and Martin, limit myself to a division into two groups, but shall make three divisions, two of which will represent extreme forms in opposite directions, whilst the third will be intermediate. I shall express these divisions in terms derived from the Greek, so that the nomenclature in pelvic classification may be as far as possible on the same lines as the well-known divisions of crania. Neither the ancient Greek nor Roman physicians appear to have recognised the pelvis as a chief division of the skeleton,<sup>1</sup> for they associated the sacrum and coccyx with the spine, and the innominate bones with the lower limbs. No word, therefore, was employed in ancient Greek to designate this part of the skeleton. But the term *πέλλα* or *πέλλις*, a bowl or pail, may be regarded as equivalent to the Latin *pelvis*.<sup>2</sup> The modern Greeks, however, designate the anatomical pelvis by the word *λεκάνη*, a dish;<sup>3</sup> if one were therefore to conjoin either with *πέλλα*, or *λεκάνη*, the prefix *δολιχός*, long, to express one extreme form, *πλατύς*, wide, to express the opposite form, and *μεσαίτατος*, middlemost, to express the intermediate condition, one would obtain descriptive terms to suit our purpose. By *dolichopellic* (*dolicholekanic*) is to be understood a pelvis in which the conjugate diameter of the brim is either longer than the transverse or approaches closely to it; by *platypellic*<sup>4</sup> (*platylekanic*), a pelvis in which the transverse diameter of the brim greatly exceeds the conjugate; by *mesatipellic* (*mesatilekanic*) a pelvis in which the transverse diameter is not so greatly in excess of the conjugate. It may not be possible in the present state of our know-

<sup>1</sup> *Onomatologia anatomica*, von Professor Joseph Hyrtl. Wien, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon. Kilian in his essay entitled "Das Stachelbecken" (Schilderung neuer Beckenform, Mannheim, 1854) employs the term *πίλις* in combination with *ἀκανθίνος*, *akantho-pelys*, *pelvis spinosa*, to express a pelvis with a sharp pectineal line or a process projecting from it.

<sup>3</sup> *ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΛΟΓΙΑ, ὑπὸ Γ. ΔΙΑΜΑΝΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ ἐν ΣΜΥΡΝΗ*. 1880, p. 36.

<sup>4</sup> I have not used the word "brachypellic" ("brachylekanic") as I wished to bring out by the employment of the prefix *πλατύς* that relatively great width was the characteristic feature of this form of pelvic brim.