

the lumbar curve which he has recently published has given the mean lumbar indices in seventy-six European skeletons, the general results of which accord very closely with those which I have obtained from my more limited number of skeletons. The mean index in his series was 95·8, and the mean index of the individual vertebræ ranged from 106·1 for the 1st lumbar to 81·6 for the 5th. He also pointed out that the two sexes differed in the proportional depth of the anterior and posterior surfaces of the bodies of the lumbar vertebræ, so that they did not have the same mean lumbar index. The average in twenty-one Irish men he found to be 96·2, and in twenty-three Irish women 93·5, from which it is evident that in the women the anterior vertical diameter of the five lumbar bodies collectively was proportionally greater than in the men, and the lumbar spine in them was more convex.

During the past few years I have collected the skeletons of seven adult aboriginal Australians—six men and one woman. In four of the men the lumbar spine is complete, in one the last lumbar vertebra has been lost, in another the 3rd, 4th and 5th lumbar are absent; in the woman all the lumbar are present. In each of the five skeletons in which the lumbar spine was complete, the vertical diameter of the bodies of the five vertebræ collectively was deeper behind than in front; the maximum difference observed in three male skeletons was 9 mm., the minimum in the woman was 2 mm. The mean collective depth of the five vertebræ in the five perfect Australian skeletons was 112·2 mm. for the anterior surface of the bodies, and 118·8 mm. for the posterior surface; the mean difference, therefore, was 6·6 mm. in favour of the posterior surface. In the skeleton in which the 5th lumbar was absent the collective diameter of the four lumbar was 3 mm. greater behind than in front. In the relation of the vertical diameter of the posterior surface to the anterior surface the opposite condition prevailed to that which was found in the Europeans. Before, indeed, I had measured the vertebræ in these Australians, I found that, when the bodies of the lumbar vertebræ in each spine were placed in apposition with each other, without the interposition of artificial discs, they produced a concave curve forward, and not a convex curve as in the European spine, so that I was not surprised to see, when the bodies were measured, that collectively they were deeper posteriorly than anteriorly.

When the measurements of the individual lumbar vertebræ in the series of Australian spines were compared, it was seen that the body of the 1st lumbar vertebra in every instance was deeper behind than in front, in four skeletons as much as 4 mm. The body of the 2nd lumbar was with one exception deeper behind than in front, in two specimens as much as 4 mm.; in the exceptional vertebra the depth in front was 1 mm. greater than behind. The body of the 3rd lumbar in four skeletons was deeper behind than in front; in one skeleton they were equal, and in another—the adult female—the anterior diameter was 1 mm. deeper than the posterior. The body of the 4th lumbar was deeper behind than in front in three skeletons; these diameters were equal in one,