

In their general form the two crania closely resembled each other. The summit of each skull was formed of the same bones similarly arranged, but in the New Zealand skull the nasal bones were an inch longer, and somewhat more than an inch wider at the base than in the one from Shetland. In both the great prænasal fossæ and anterior nares were similarly shaped, and the bones forming their walls were similarly arranged; the only appreciable difference being that in the New Zealand specimen the transverse diameter of the fossa was about an inch wider, the præmaxillæ forming the sides of the fossæ were more massive, and from the inner surface of the left præmaxilla a stronger ridge projected than in the Shetland cranium. In the New Zealand specimen the greatest width between the two præmaxillæ was 10 inches, whilst that of the Shetland cranium was  $8\frac{7}{8}$  inches. The beak was similarly constructed in both specimens. The mesorostral bones were almost identical in shape, but in the New Zealand skull it was  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch longer than in the one from Shetland— $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches as against  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches. In the New Zealand specimen a narrow longitudinal groove between 3 and 4 inches long was situated at the posterior truncated end of this bone, no similar groove existed in the Shetland animal. Both possessed an ecto-maxillary ridge and furrow; in the Shetland specimen the furrow was narrower and deeper than in the New Zealand, but in the latter the superior maxilla in the middle third of the beak had its sides more uniformly rounded, and projecting somewhat more laterally, than in the Shetland animal. In both, the under surface of the beak had a similar construction, and the palate bones articulated with each other mesially between the anterior ends of the two pterygoids, and separated the latter from the superior maxillæ. The mandibles resembled each other in shape and in projecting beyond the tip of the beak, but in the New Zealand specimen the bone was somewhat more massive and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches longer than in the one from Shetland— $34\frac{3}{4}$  inches to  $32\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The evidence which I have obtained from a personal comparison of these two crania, belonging to animals dwelling in such widely separated seas as those of the Shetland Isles and New Zealand, is not such as to justify me in classifying them as distinct species. In all the essential features of form and construction they are practically alike. The differences which I have noted between them are merely such as are due to a difference in size, and to the New Zealand cranium having, along with its greater size, a somewhat more extended condition of ossification than the Shetland specimen, so that, so far as the cranial characters afford a basis for observation, I could come to no other conclusion than that the New Zealand animal is *Ziphius cavirostris*.

Since the skull from the Wellington Museum arrived in Edinburgh, the New Zealand naturalists have published additional information on this genus of Ziphioids.

In May 1876 a paper by Dr von Haast was contributed to the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, New Zealand,<sup>1</sup> and also to the Zoological Society of London,<sup>2</sup> in which was described the skeleton of an aged female whale that had been stranded, in July 1872, in Lyttleton Harbour, Bank's Peninsula. This is apparently the same animal

<sup>1</sup> Trans. New Zealand Institute, vol. ix. p. 430, 1877.      <sup>2</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., June 6, 1876, vol. xlv. p. 466.