

various facts is that the study of the crania supports the view that New Zealand had been occupied by a dolichocephalic and probably Melanesian race, before the Polynesian element was introduced into it.

The origin of the Chatham Islanders is shrouded in mystery. The massacre of so large a portion of these islanders by the Maoris before Europeans had become well acquainted with them, has interfered with our obtaining much information on their traditions. It is believed, however, that the Morioris are the result of an intermixture of Polynesians with Melanesians. It is said that they are shorter and stouter than the Maoris, darker in the skin, with lank black hair, aquiline noses, and a Jewish cast of countenance,¹ and that they can be readily distinguished from the Maoris. From the description of their crania in the earlier part of this Report (p. 73), it will be seen that they are in the lower term of the mesaticephalic series, and that the vertical index is less than the cephalic. Their breadth index was somewhat higher than the New Zealanders, and their nasal index was somewhat lower, but in other respects the proportions of parts in the two series of crania closely corresponded. The slope downwards and outwards from the sagittal suture to the parietal eminences, and the vertical direction of the wall of the skull below the parietal eminence, gave to the New Zealand skull, though in a less degree, that pentagonal outline in the norma occipitalis which has already been referred to (p. 73) as so marked in the Chatham Islanders. The characters of the skulls of the Morioris are such as might well be referred to a mixture of the Polynesian with the Melanesian race, and it is possible that, as in New Zealand itself, the Polynesian settlers may have found this group of islands occupied by a Melanesian people, and have intermingled with them.

From this summary of the proportions of the skulls of the people occupying the Polynesian area, it would appear that there is great diversity in the relation of the length to the breadth of the cranium, so that brachycephalic, mesaticephalic, and dolichocephalic crania are found amongst them. In some localities in the Melanesian area, more especially in and near New Guinea, a similar diversity was described, though the dolichocephalic type predominated, and in such localities as the mountains of Fiji and the Admiralty Islands seemed to be the exclusive form. These modifications in the relation of length to breadth in the Melanesian area were ascribed to a mixture of other races with the prevailing Papuan stock, and the question now arises whether a mixture of some other race or races with the proper Polynesian stock has taken place so as to have caused a modification in the form of their head.

If we assume that the type form of the skull in the Polynesians is brachycephalic, then, so far as our present material for observation admits of conclusions to be drawn, we may say that the Tonga Islanders present this type in its purest form. But if we pass from these islands to the groups situated either north, south, east, or west, then along

¹ Mr. E. A. Welch's account of these people in *Anthropological Review*, vol. viii. p. ci., 1870.