

evident that, whilst in the 1st and 2nd lumbar vertebræ the body was deeper behind than in front in a considerable proportion of the specimens, in the 3rd and 4th lumbar the reverse occurred, until in the 5th lumbar the bodies of all the specimens had a greater vertical diameter anteriorly than posteriorly, and this indeed is a character of the 5th lumbar that has long been recognised by the descriptive human anatomist. The vertical diameter of the body of the 4th lumbar in the twelve skeletons amounted to 336 mm. for the anterior surfaces collectively, and to 313 mm. for the posterior surfaces collectively. In the 5th lumbar the vertical diameter of the anterior surfaces collectively amounted to 337 mm., and the posterior surfaces to 281 mm.; the mean anterior depth was 28 mm., the mean posterior 23·4, and the mean difference in favour of the anterior surface was 4·6 mm. Hence it follows that of all the lumbar vertebræ the 5th had much the greater proportional depth at the front as compared with the back of its body, and that it contributed more than any of the others to the anterior convexity of the lumbar region, so far as that is produced by the bodies of these vertebræ.

For the purposes of comparison of the lumbar region in Europeans with the same region in the spines of other races of men, it may be well to frame a general lumbar index for the entire region, and a special index for the body of each vertebra. If we assume the vertical diameter of the bodies of the five vertebræ anteriorly to be = 100, then the formula $\frac{\text{posterior diameter} \times 100}{\text{the anterior diameter}}$ would give the *general lumbar index*, and by a similar formula the *special index* of each vertebra may be obtained.

In Table X. the mean index of each lumbar vertebra in the series of twelve European spines is given, from which it will be seen that the index diminished from 106·8, that of the 1st lumbar vertebra, to 83·6, that of the 5th. The mean general index of the series of five lumbar vertebræ was 96. Dr. Cunningham in the abstract of his researches on

TABLE X.—LUMBAR INDICES.

Mean special Index of	12 Europeans.	5 Australians (4 ♀, 1 ♂).	2 Andaman Islanders.	3 Negros (2 ♀, 1 ♂).	3 Oahuans, Sandwich Islands.
1st Lumbar vertebra, . .	106·8	114·4	111·3	108·8	114·6
2nd " " . .	101·5	112·3	105·6	104·2	108·0
3rd " " . .	95·4	108·0	102·0	100·0	108·2
4th " " . .	93·0	103·7	91·8	93·0	101·5
5th " " . .	83·6	91·4	84·2	89·0	87·7
Mean general Lumbar Index, .	96·0	105·96 = 106·0	98·98 = 99·0	99·0	104·0