

jaw. The angle was marked by a ridge-like tubercle which projected backwards. A strong, quadrangular, inflected subcondyloid process sprang from the posterior border of the ascending ramus; it was separated by a notch from the ridge-like angle, and by a still deeper notch from the neck and condyle. The coronoid was broad, thin, and formed an obtuse angle. The body was massive, with its lower border everted, and closely corresponded in its characters to the description given by Dr. Murie. The mandible in the young skull showed on a smaller scale the same character as the adult.

The differences between the larger and smaller adult crania, in addition to that of size, may be summarised as follows:—In the smaller skulls the occipital and sagittal crests were feeble; no parietal tubercle; the antorbital processes much smaller; the interfrontal diameter relatively larger; the front of the premaxilla was both absolutely and relatively less deep, and its nasal tubercle was scarcely marked; the breadth of the palate was greater behind the molars; the tympanic bulla was prolonged downwards into a sharp ridge instead of a thick, truncated process; the length of the brain-cavity in the smaller crania, especially the Maldonado specimen, was, in proportion to that of the entire skull, greater than in the larger specimens; and the antero-posterior diameter of the orbit bore a larger proportion to the distance between the front of the cranial box and the antorbital process. These differences cannot be ascribed to age, for the smaller skulls were as perfectly ossified as the larger crania. As nothing is known of the sex of the animals from which the smaller crania were derived, it cannot absolutely be stated that the differences were sexual only, though without doubt, for the most part, they were such as are mainly occasioned by a more vigorous ossification in the one skull than in the other, as we are in the habit of recognising in male crania when compared with female. That important sexual differences do exist in the crania of the Sea Lions has already been pointed out by Sir Richard Owen,¹ Mr. J. A. Allen,² and Dr. J. Murie,³ and both Drs. Gray⁴ and Murie have dwelt on the changes in form which the skull undergoes in passing from the young stage to that of adult life and old age, and the specimens now before me show that the characters of the two smaller adults in many respects approximated to those of the young male Falkland Island cranium.

The opinion of zoologists has greatly fluctuated regarding the number of species which should be referred to the genus *Otaria*, even when that genus is restricted according to the definition given on p. 29. A perusal of the numerous papers on the Eared Seals by the late Dr. J. E. Gray will show how frequently he changed his views on this subject. In a similar manner the late Professor Peters of Berlin from time to time either added to or subtracted from the number of species. It is unnecessary to give a resumé of their various changes of opinion, as this has already been done by Mr. J. A.

¹ Catalogue, Royal College of Surgeons.

² *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, Cambridge, U.S., vol. ii. 1870–1871; and *History of North American Pinnipeds*, 1880.

³ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1869; *Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, vol. viii.

⁴ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1859; and *Catalogue of Seals and Whales*.