

## CASE OF HYPEROSTOSIS CRANII.

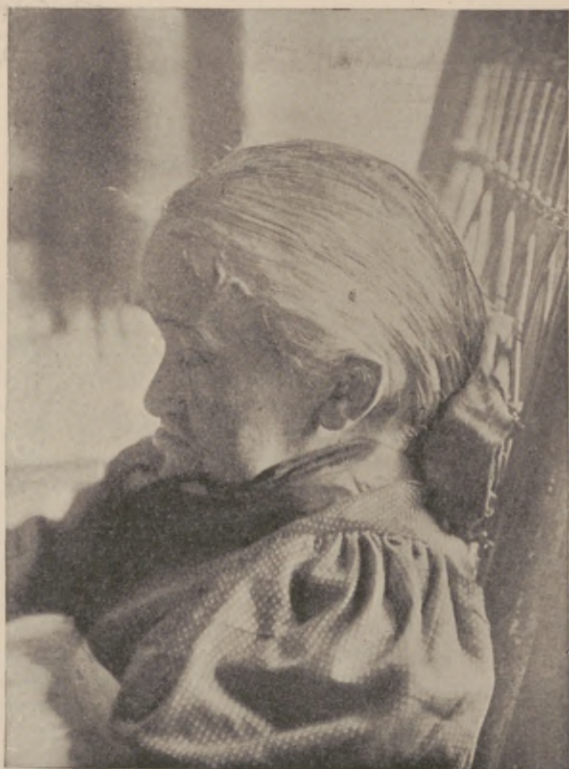
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Of Philadelphia.

**T**HIS specimen was recently presented to the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians by Dr. Charles Herwirsch of Philadelphia, who has kindly furnished me his report of the case of which the following is a summary: The patient, a white woman, single, enjoyed good health up to her 64th year. She was a normal individual, mentally and physically, of a very lively disposition, and a hard worker. She was then attacked with rheumatism and confined to bed for one year, when the gradual enlargement of the head began. Until within a few months ago she was able to go about her room with the aid of a cane, but in January, 1896, she was unable to walk unattended, and had to be helped in and out of bed. She became listless and never conversed, but made short replies when spoken to. She never complained of pain, but did not like to have her head palpated. Near the time of her death, which occurred on March 13, 1896, she became very restless and troublesome at night, made frequent cries, and became impatient, and easily lost her temper. Insomnia, refusal of food, coma, and finally death at the age of 71. The head measured 71 cm. in fronto-occipital circumference, and between the meatus auditorii over the vertex 43 cm. The veins were very prominent over the scalp and pulsation indistinct throughout the course of the tortuous and dilated temporal arteries. The lower half of the head was not enlarged. There was no acromegaly or

myxoedema; but there was slight bowing of the long bones of the lower extremities, most marked in the left leg.

On removing the calvarium the bone was found unusually soft and friable, and could easily be pricked out with the scalpel. In the temporal regions the external and internal plates were fused; elsewhere the relative

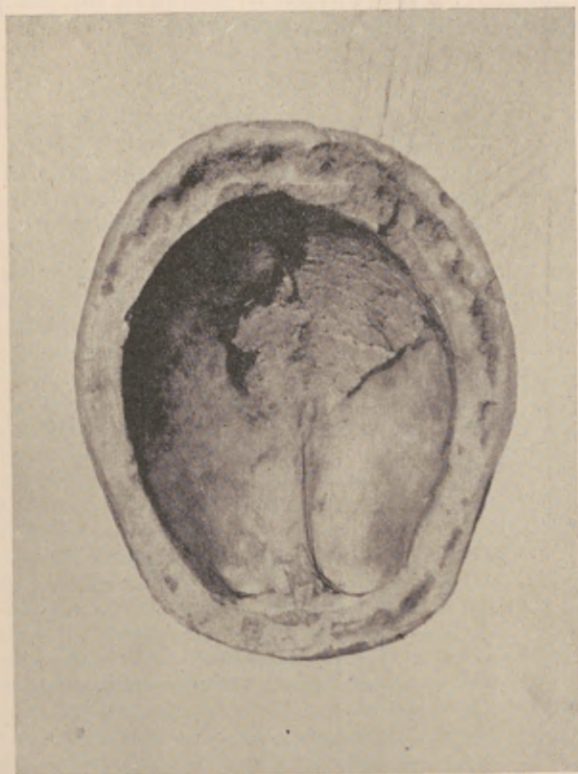


amount of diploë was much diminished in proportion to the greatly increased size of the bone; this was most evident in the occipital region. The measurements at the section are as follows in millimeters.

Fronto-occipital diameter, 22.8; biparietal, 18.8; surface length, sagittal, 31.2 Thickness, right occipital, 35; frontal, 29; left temporal, 14.

The detached skull cap weighed 1870 gms. (4 lbs. 2 oz.) The brain weighed 1360 gms. (48 oz.)

There was nothing in the brain membranes noteworthy except a slightly indurated and thickened dura. The brain fitted easily in the normal sized cavity of the vault. The ventricles were hyper distended with clear serum; the ependyma was normal; no hemorrhagic



lesion or other alteration was found in the encephalon.

Both femurs were thickened and slightly curved, with the convexities forward and outward. The epiphyses were much enlarged and covered with a new growth, capped as it were with osteoplastic incrustation or exostosis of friable mealy bone, more so than was exhibited in the skull-cap, where the densest bone of the body was found.



The specimen presents, therefore, the condition of rarefying osteitis or hyperostosis cranii. Baumgarten describes cases of this kind under the name of Leontaeasis ossea. Only two specimens in this country resemble this one in size. One is in the Warren Museum at Harvard University, and measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in its greatest thickness; the second is in the Army Medical Museum at Washington, and is from a mulatto woman. I am indebted to Dr. Currier R. Marshall for the photographs and plates herewith presented.