

BULLETIN No. 17.

POSTURES AND ABNORMALITIES.

(Pls. xviii.-xxiv. ; figs. 43-51.)

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1. *Sleep*.—Judging from my own experience I cannot say that any position assumed during sleep is customary, but from that of others whose opinions are worth considering, it would seem that the habitual posture of sleep is a coiled condition of the body resting upon its side (Pl. xviii., fig. 1), without the head being raised, at Cape Bedford and Cape Grafton, but with the head resting on a hand or arm at the Tully River and Princess Charlotte Bay. On the other hand, I have noticed that in the coiled position, it is the stomach and not the back which is invariably turned towards the fire. The natives are said to habitually sleep on the back with the head low on the Pennefather River, but with one or both hands supporting the head on the Bloomfield River. The Princess Charlotte Bay Blacks are also said to often lie on the stomach, or back, with the head supported by the hands. There is reported to be a very marked habit amongst the Cape Grafton children of swinging their heads and bodies from side to side, while in the sitting position, when lulling themselves to sleep.

2. *Standing*.—Amongst the males there is everywhere a common position assumed in standing at ease, viz., the placing of one foot just above the opposite knee (Pl. xviii., fig. 2), the balance