

DESCRIPTION OF CRANIAL REMAINS FROM
WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND.

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(Plates xxxii.-xxxiii.)

In February, 1910, Mr. W. M. Fraser, County Engineer of Whangarei, New Zealand, wrote to me that he was forwarding a box containing the upper part of two human skulls. He said that until about two years ago these remains had been hermetically-sealed under fifty feet of decomposed sand for not less than seven hundred or one thousand years, judging by the nature and formation of the country, and that the bone marked "A" was found on a lower level than the one marked "B." The box contained two packages. In one were two pieces of bone marked "A"; in the other there were five or six pieces marked "B."

I first cemented together the parts marked "A," and examined them. They formed the whole of a frontal bone and part of the parietals. After an extensive examination of the fragments and a comparison with other skulls of various races I made a summary of the facts and inferences.

After I had pieced together the fragments marked "B" I found that they and those marked "A" all belonged to the same skull. The amount of skull present made it possible for one to make a far greater number of measurements for comparison, and gave a fairly accurate idea of its peculiarities (Pl. xxxii., fig. 1).

Although the bones have the appearance of having been exposed to the weather, the lines defining the boundaries or attachments of muscles are fairly well marked. From this fact and from certain other appearances one infers that it is the skull of a full-grown subject, in all probability a male. There is no appearance of disease nor any sign of artificial deformity produced either during life or after death.

One striking feature is the thickness of the bones. In some parts the frontal bone measures 16mm. in thickness, and the