

34. Description of Kijesu Ceremony Among the Akamba, Tiva River, East Africa.



C. W. Neligan

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Africa, East.

With Plate D.

Neligan.

Description of Kijesu Ceremony among the Akamba, Tiva River, East Africa. *By the late C. W. Neligan.* **34**

I was sitting in my camp near the Tiva River on January 8th, 1908, under a tree with my helmet on. The woman seen in the accompanying photographs came in, saw my helmet, and promptly went into a fit. She started trembling very violently, throwing her arms about. She was taken in hand by the people shown in the photographs, more particularly the man with a knife in his hand, who started making passes with his knife around her legs, head, and body. The woman still went on throwing herself about moaning and behaving as if she was in great pain. The man with the knife in his hand then made some patterns on the woman's legs with sand in this shape ; after which he passed the point of his knife along these patterns and again round and round the woman's legs, head, and body; he also made the woman—who seemed insane—put her arms out in front of her as if in supplication, the man all the time repeating what seemed to be certain phrases. By this time, thinking the woman was seriously ill, I asked two other native women, who were standing by, what the matter was, and they said, "Oh, its only Kijesu." Knowing from Mr. Traill (who was the original discoverer of this affair) that it was only a sort of fit on account of seeing anyone with a helmet on, I went to my tent: this was after the woman had been about 1½ hours in this fit. About one hour later a message was sent over to me saying that if I would give this woman a letter she would be all right. I tore off a piece of a magazine I was reading and just ran a pencil over it and sent it over. The woman then sent back for some matches, which I sent; she then lit the paper and put the lighted paper in her mouth, and the alleged devil was exorcised. From beginning to end this woman was in this fit about 3½ hours. Next morning I saw her and she was perfectly all right and did not mind my helmet in the least.

C. W. NELIGAN.

Physical Anthropology.

Duckworth.

Report on a Human Skull from Thessaly (now in the Cambridge University Anatomical Museum). *By W. L. H. Duckworth,* **35**
M.D., Sc.D.

I. *History of the Specimen.*—The skull was found with other remains of a human skeleton in the stratum of the second neolithic period at Tsangli. It was at least 1.50 m. from the surface, and there was no disturbance of the stratification above it. Therefore the skull would seem to belong to the end of the second or to the third (chalcolithic) period. As the population then, to judge by archæological evidence, was different from that which inhabited Thessaly in classical times, it is likely that this skull would differ from those modern Thessalians. In connection with the good preservation of the skull it is to be noted that animal bones from the same prehistoric mound are in good condition.

II. *Craniological Description (with Figs. 1 and 2).*—This is a male cranium of moderate size; it has been reconstructed from about fifteen fragments. In the proportion of length and breadth it falls within the mesaticephalic division.

The brow ridges are distinct, the external occipital protuberance on the contrary is small. The transverse orbital axes droop outwardly, and the orbital proportions were probably microseme. The mastoid processes are large with long axes nearly vertical in direction.

The nasal skeleton was prominent and the lower margins of the nasal aperture distinct. The palate has nearly a parabolic contour. The teeth are of moderate size but of excellent quality. In the upper jaws the second and third molars are



KIJESU CEREMONY.