

for 1896 or 1897 as near as I can remember,  
during Brabrook's presidency.

There are casts of the Calvaria femur or  
teeth in the Natural History Museum.

I am very sorry to hear that you  
have not been well, but trust  
that as the weather improves your  
health will also improve. It is  
very hard to work well when one  
is not feeling equal to it; but  
am glad to hear that notwithstanding  
all you are able to proceed with  
the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of your valuable  
explorations. I have read with care  
all through your fourth volume which  
is most useful to me.

With kind regards

Yours very truly  
J. G. Garson

Garson

L2358

64, BRADBURY STREET, W.

20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1899

Dear General Pitt-Rivers

I was very glad to hear  
from you though your letter was  
rather long on the way on account  
of its having gone to my former  
residence at Duke Street. I am  
now in Harley Street as you see  
from the above heading.

The amount of ink which has  
been used over Pithecanthropus  
erectus, as its finder christened  
it, is truly remarkable, as it has  
given rise to such a number of

monographs and controversies as to  
 put the Neanderthal skull quite  
 in the shade. I have seen and  
 handled the specimen and truly it  
 is a very remarkable one. I must  
 say that I agree entirely with the  
 opinions of Prof. Manouvrier of Paris  
 (Especially successful & a very able man)  
 There have been published <sup>several numbers</sup> in ~~course~~  
 of the Bulletin of the Paris Anthropological  
 Society <sup>since 1894.</sup> I accept the various species  
 as belonging to the same individual  
 specimen and consider that it  
 cannot be classified zoologically  
 as Homo sapiens. The nearest position  
 to man in which it can be placed

is I think another species of the genus  
Homo — Homo erectus if you like, but  
 I do not find fault with those eminent  
 authorities who think that it should be  
 classed in another genus from man  
 as well as <sup>different</sup> species. The capacity of  
 the cranium when stated to be 1000 cc.  
 is only approximately correct and is  
 as near the mark as the imperfect  
 condition will permit of an estimate  
 being made. I do not think that  
 were perfect the cranial capacity  
 would have exceeded that figure.  
 The calvaria and femur are completely  
 petrified a condition which I have  
 never seen before in human <sup>or monkey</sup> bones.  
 You will find an account of the  
 specimens & the discussion on them  
 in the Journal of the Anthrop. Institute

Copy.

Rushmore,

Salisbury.

Feb. 8th, 1899.

Dear Dr. Garson,

L2358

My attention has been drawn to the skull of the Pithecanthrope given in M. G. de Mortillet's "Formation de la Nation Francaise", p. 224, in which he gives the cubical contents estimated at 1000 cubic centimetres. M. de Mortillet ought certainly to have known how to measure the cubical contents of a skull; but I have measured a good many skulls, chiefly originally under your guidance, and I feel sure that it is quite impossible to estimate with any approach to accuracy the cubic contents of a portion of a calvarium, such as represented in Fig. 66, p. 224. The position of the basion is merely guessed at. One knows that even with the skull perfect, it takes a good deal of care <sup>in tapping it whilst filling</sup> to get a reliable measurement. Moreover the skull seems to be in a very rotten state, as shown by the holes in the superciliary ridges in Fig. 65, and with the base of the skull quite gone, it must have been liable to great distortion, and the top of the skull may have been pressed out and flattened by time. I should like to know your opinion upon these points. Accuracy of measurement is so very important, and such false conclusions may be formed through the want of it.

I hope you are well. I have not heard anything of you for a long time. I have been ailing for some time and have not been able to do much, but my Vol. IV of "Excavations" has been finished and Vol. V commenced.

Yours very truly,

A. Pitt-Rivers.