In comparative examinations it should be remembered, that as slaves are for the most part obtained from abroad, skulls found among the tribes addicted to the practice which are not compressed, may be assumed as of a different origin, and on the other hand those very much altered which are met with among the northern tribes are probably likewise so. The care bestowed on the disposition of the dead, will however generally indicate his rank, and therefore his nationality. These observations are important where deductions are attempted to be drawn from differences in crania, but are likely to be overlooked by those unacquainted with the habits of these tribes. It will be seen that the custom is a local one; that within a particular district it is common to tribes of the most different families and that beyond it, other tribes of the same families do not practice it at all.

Arrival at Puberty

The first prominent event in a woman's life, her becoming fit for marriage, as seems to be the case with most savage tribes, is a period of ceremonial observance among these Indians, with those of this district, the girl usually retreats to some secluded spot and fasts. The rigor of her abstenience is said to be a great merit, but that it may not be carried too far, some old squaw who is acquainted with her hiding place, carries her when needful a little water and dried salmon. The time is with some tribes