

the characters of a highly-cultivated race, and hence, no doubt, their high value in the improvement of our European breeds. Nathusius makes a remarkable statement (Schweineschädel, s. 138), that the infusion of the $\frac{1}{32}$ nd, or even of the $\frac{1}{64}$ th, part of the blood of *S. indicus* into a breed of *S. scrofa*, is sufficient plainly to modify the skull of the latter species. This singular fact may perhaps be accounted for by several of the chief distinctive characters of *S. indicus*, such as the shortness of the lachrymal bones, &c., being common to several species of the genus; for in crosses characters which are common to many species apparently tend to be prepotent over those appertaining to only a few species.

The Japan pig (*S. pliciceps* of Gray), which was formerly exhibited in the Zoological Gardens, has an extraordinary appearance from its short head, broad forehead and nose, great fleshy ears, and deeply furrowed skin. The following woodcut is copied from that given by Mr. Bartlett.¹⁰ Not only is the face furrowed, but thick folds of skin, which are harder than the other parts, almost like the plates on the Indian rhinoceros, hang about the shoulders and rump. It is coloured black, with white feet, and breeds true. That it has long been domesticated there can be little doubt; and this might have been inferred even from the fact that its young are not longitudinally striped; for this is a character common to all the species included within the genus *Sus* and the allied genera whilst in their natural state.¹¹ Dr. Gray¹² has described the skull of this animal, which he ranks not only as a distinct species, but places it in a distinct section of the genus. Nathusius, however, after his careful study of the whole group, states positively (Schweineschädel, s. 153-158) that the skull in all essential characters closely resembles that of the short-eared Chinese breed of the *S. indicus* type. Hence Nathusius considers the Japan pig as only a domesticated variety of *S. indicus*: if this really be the case, it is a

¹⁰ 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1861, p. 263.

¹¹ Sclater, in 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' Feb. 26th, 1861.

¹² 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1862, p. 13. The skull has since been described much more fully by Professor Lucae

in a very interesting essay, 'Der Schädel des Maskenschweines,' 1870. He confirms the conclusion of von Nathusius on the relationship of this kind of pig.