

**M0008684: Skull of a cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*)**

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Fig. 34.—Skull of a cave-bear (*Ursus spelæus*), found in a cavern at Nabresina, near Trieste, and bearing on the right side, in the parietal bone, a Paleolithic stone axe of the Mousterian type. The axe had almost cut through the bone, but the latter had grown firmly around the flint, showing that after the wound the animal had survived, probably for many years. As an axe is not a missile weapon the blow must have been delivered at close quarters by an an with sufficient courage to have withstood the attack of this huge beast, and with sufficient coolness to deliver the blow at exactly the right time and in precisely the proper spot. This skull is now in the Museo Civico in Trieste, and serves as an eloquent proof of an actual encounter between early man and the worst of his adversaries. (After Marchesetti.)