

Necklaces of native beads of shell or cocoanut wood are also worn. Rings of tortoise-shell are commonly worn in the ears as at Humboldt Bay. Both waistbelts and armlets of fine plaited work, with patterns in yellow and black, are common, resembling those of the Arrou Islands and Humboldt Bay (see Pl. H. figs. 2, 3).

The body is seldom decorated with green leaves, as at Humboldt Bay, but leaves are occasionally worn, both hanging down the shoulders and on the arms. Flowers, also, are seldom worn, but a single *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* flower is sometimes carried in the hair.

The full-grown men are mostly marked with cicatrizations, in the form of circular spots about the size of half a crown, which are sparsely disposed over the upper part of the chest and shoulders in front, and sometimes continued down the back in two lines leading obliquely downwards from the shoulders to meet one another in the middle of the back. One full-grown young man of twenty years or so had the spots fresh and raw; they had apparently been raised by burning.

Tattooing is almost entirely confined to the women, with whom it is universal. Two males, however, were tattooed: one, a small boy, had a simple ring-mark round one eye, the other, an adult, had rings round both eyes; these were, however, exceptional cases. The tattooing is not made up of fine dots or pricks, but of a series of short lines or cuts;¹ the colour is an indigo blue. The women are tattooed with rings round the eyes and all over the face, and in diagonal lines over the upper part of the front of the body, the lines crossing one another so as to form a series of lozenge-shaped spaces. The tattooing is sparse and scarcely visible at a short distance, and nowhere are the marks placed so close to one another as to form coloured patches on the body, as in Fijian women or Samoan men.

The male natives occasionally have their chests and faces coloured with a burnt red clay. Sometimes only one lateral half of the face is reddened. When vermilion was given to the natives they put it on cleverly and symmetrically in curved lines, leading from the nose under each eye, showing that they understood how to use it with effect, but magenta was found useless as an article of trade, for it is too transparent to show on a dark brown skin, and the natives rejected it directly they tried it. No doubt the reason why they do not tattoo themselves is because the tattooing would show so little; perhaps also it is on account of their dark colour that Melanesians generally have so largely adopted cicatrization as a substitute.

It is probable that the natives paint themselves elaborately on festive occasions and in time of war. They were fond of being painted, and two natives who were painted on board all over with engine-room oil-paint, yellow and green, in stripes and various facetious designs, were delighted. They were also often coloured black over the faces

¹ Probably made with obsidian flakes. It is said that the Solomon Islanders are tattooed with short cuts made in this way.