

enclosures adjoining the houses, but to a limited extent, and there are no large clearings nor indeed any kind of cultivation leaving its mark on the general features of the vegetation of the islands as viewed from the sea, as at Humboldt Bay, Api, or Fiji. Plantains are grown sparingly round the houses; and a bread-fruit tree also about the villages. Several wild fruits, a Hog-plum (*Spondias*), a small fig, and the fertile fronds of a fern are eaten by the natives, and they have a sugar cane of better quality than that used at Humboldt Bay. Young cocoanut trees are planted about the houses, and carefully protected from injury by means of neatly-woven cylindrical fences; they are also planted with care on the uninhabited islands. The natives have no Yams (*Dioscorea*) nor sweet potatoes.

The flesh of pigs is roasted by the natives, and served for eating, placed on a quantity of the prepared sago in large wooden bowls, which are often elaborately carved (see Plate M). The Phalanger of the islands (*Cuscus*) is also roasted whole, and is carried about cold, with head, tail, and legs intact, ready to be torn with the teeth and eaten at any moment.



FIG. 242.—Earthenware pot with two handles, and supported on four feet, from the Admiralty Islands.

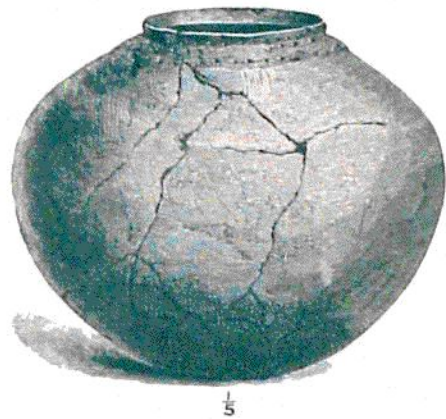


FIG. 243.—Spherical earthenware pot, from the Admiralty Islands.

The natives possess pottery, although apparently in small quantity only; it is neither glazed nor ornamented. An earthen pot was obtained from them, represented in the accompanying woodcut (see fig. 242). Like the bowls it is supported on four feet and like them has a pair of lateral inwardly curved handles. Although no proof that this was of their own manufacture was obtained, it is probable that it was made by them, since Melanesians are mostly potters, and the pattern is obviously copied from that of their wooden bowls. The natives have also large, nearly spherical, cooking pots of thin black earthenware with narrow necks (see fig. 243).

There are wells on the inhabited islands at some little distance from the houses; they are shallow holes dug in the coral ground, and are kept covered in with sheets of bark. Cocoanut shell cups are hung up for drinking at each well.