

same length as the others, and are likewise carried in bundles. They are thrown overhand, being held by the hinder extremity, and swung round vertically (see fig. 251).

The natives have no defensive weapons, such as shields.

Though there is an enormous abundance of wild pigeons on the islands the natives have invented no means of shooting them; they can only climb the trees and catch them roosting, or knock them off the nest.

The natives are extremely expert in wood carving, and show most remarkable taste in their designs. The lance heads are often carved, the carving taking the form mostly of incised patterns, the effect being heightened and beautified by the use of black, white, and red pigments; the white being coral lime, the red burnt clay, and the black possibly charcoal of some kind. The human images carved on the door-posts of the club houses, and the posts of some of the dwelling houses, are also ornamented in the same style (see fig. 257.) These patterns are all modifications of the lozenge or diamond, and without curves. The ornamental patterns woven in the belts are also composed of longitudinal and diagonal elements. They are very tasteful, and approach somewhat in beauty of execution the similar fabrics of the Caroline Islands (see Pl. H. figs. 2, 3).

An entirely different class of carving is that of the large wooden bowls which are used by the natives for eating out of. They resemble those of the Solomon Islanders, although never ornamented by inlaying, but are most remarkable for their graceful forms and delicately carved handles. The bowls are worked with wonderful precision to the circular form, considering the tools available, appearing

as true as if turned. They are widely open, and provided with a pair of curved handles, which rise above the level of the brims, and are usually cut in a delicate spiral. The handles are always ornamented with perforated carving, and may include a pair of crocodiles, or roughly executed human figures; sometimes they have no handles (see fig. 252). The bowls stand always on four short legs, like the Fijian kaava bowls. They never have a circular bottom, no doubt because there are no level surfaces for them to rest upon, and because the idea is derived from a four legged stool. Sometimes the perforated handles are further ornamented by pendants of seeds strung on twine (see fig. 253). Their workmanship is of astonishing excellence and great beauty. The finest specimens here figured are in the collection of Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, the others are deposited in the Christy Collection in the British Museum.

Some of the bowls are like some of those made at the Solomon Islands and elsewhere in the form of birds (see Plate M. fig. 2), and a double one was obtained, composed of

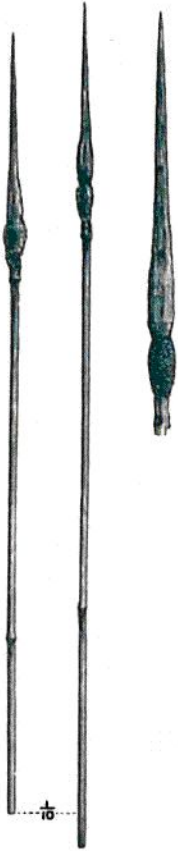


FIG. 251.—Short Darts with reed shafts and heads of hard wood, Admiralty Islands.