

and labelled, but a missile weapon, which is thrown with great force with the hand, revolving rapidly in the air as it flies, and striking a very formidable blow, often in the face. Settlers in Fiji told me it was the only native weapon which they feared when fighting with Fijians. The native name of the weapon is "Ula." The head of the ula is usually beset with a circle of large oval knobs, as shown in the figure. These knobs are the stumps of the lateral roots of the tree, from which the weapon is cut. When the ula is carved out of solid wood, a circle of knobs is often cut round the head of it, in imitation of those derived in the original weapon from the lateral root stumps. Some ulas have perfectly smooth heads.



FIJIAN ULA.

With regard to Cannibalism, I gathered many of the following details from our interpreter: When visitors of distinction paid a great chief a visit, he was expected to provide human flesh for their entertainment. If there were no prisoners, a man whose special office it was to obtain such food for the chief, went in search and often killed some girl or woman he met with alone, belonging to a village not far off.

Young woman was considered to be the best eating; Europeans were not thought so good to eat as natives, no doubt because of their very mixed diet, and much greater consumption of animal food. The bodies were prepared with care for cooking, and were usually baked in the well-known oven in the ground. A special vegetable, a species of *Solanum* (*S. anthropophagorum*), was eaten with the baked flesh, just as was the case in New Zealand. The vegetable was eaten with human flesh as a suitable condiment, not as an antidote. There is no reason to suppose that ill effects followed the eating of human flesh any more than the consumption of any other kind of flesh. The sturdy health of the grey-haired Thackombau is sufficient evidence against such a supposition.

The flesh was eaten cold as well as hot, and the cold cooked flesh was often sent to a distance as a present from one chief to another. A four-pronged fork of wood was used in eating human flesh, and was held more or less sacred, but it was also used for eating other food occasionally.

The New Zealanders were, however, probably the most profusely cannibal race that has existed. As many as 1,000 New Zealand prisoners have been slaughtered at one time after a successful battle, that their bodies might be put into the ovens.