

shaped wristlets made of plaited fibres (of *Pandanus* ?), yellow and black worked into a pattern.

These bracelets of the Aru Islanders were ornamented with European shirt buttons in lieu of the small ground-down shells (*Neritina*) used at New Guinea and in the Admiralty Islands for the same purpose. The buttons came, no doubt, from the Chinese traders, and probably the natives thought they were intended for this purpose, as they look not so very much unlike the shells. The men had a number of leaf buckets full of sago, ready prepared, and we saw their rude kneading-trough and strainers of palm fibre, in a swamp close by.

The trees are excessively high and large in the Aru forests. To a botanical collector, with no time to spare, such a forest is



HOUSE OF BACK-COUNTRY NATIVES, WOKAN ISLAND.

a hopeless problem. Only the few low-growing plants can be gathered, and the orchids and ferns that hang on the stems low down, especially along the coast. A few palms can be cut down. The flowers and fruits of the trees, the main features of the vegetation, and those most likely to prove of especial interest, are far out of reach.

The trees cannot be cut down. It would take a day at least to fell one. The only hope is to lie on one's back and look for blossoms or fruit with a binocular glass, and then try and shoot a branch down. Very often, however, the trees are far too high for that, and then the matter must be given up altogether.

Growing on some of the high trees in Wokan Island, I saw most enormous Stag's-horn ferns (*Platycerium*). I certainly imagined they must be at least eight feet in the height of the fronds. I could not reach any but very small specimens.