



MORO JEW'S-HARP,
CUT OUT OF A
SINGLE PIECE
OF BAMBOO.

The officers of a Spanish man-of-war in the port of Zamboanga at the time of our visit, hospitably gave us an entertainment on shore, and got the Moros to dance for our amusement. Two men danced with spears and shields, in imitation of a combat, in which the utmost rage was simulated on both sides; the teeth were clenched and exposed, the head jerked forward, and the eyes starting as they advanced to the attack. The dance of the women was like that described as performed by the Ke Islanders. The body was kept nearly rigid, and turned round slowly or moved a short distance from side to side by motion of the feet alone. The feet were kept close together, and side by side, and moved parallel to one another with a shuffling motion.

The principal display in the dancing consisted in the very slow and gradual movement of the arms, wrists, and hands. One arm was maintained directed forwards and somewhat upwards, the other at about the same angle downwards, and the position of the two was at intervals gradually reversed; the hands were turned slowly round upon the wrists, and often the dancing consisted for some interval merely in the graceful pose of the body, and this movement of the hands.

The main point in the dancing seemed to be that all the motions should follow and pass one into the other with perfect gradation in time, and without any jerk or quickening. The thumbs were always maintained extended at right angles to the palms of the hands, as at the Ke Islands.

A young boy danced a somewhat similar dance to that of the girls. During his performance, he at one time put forward one leg and curved the sole of his foot so that only the toe and heel touched the floor, and turned round with the foot in that position. At another time he shuffled along slowly with the heel of one foot in the hollow of the other.

I obtained from a Moro boy a Jew's-harp made of bamboo, on which he was playing. The instrument is most ingeniously cut out