

reached by the natives, before 8 and 9 have been named. This method of forming the numerals 8 and 9 is known amongst other distant races, such as the Ainos, and some North American races, but apparently does not occur amongst either Polynesians or other Melanesians. It is, however, found in the language of one Micronesian island, Yap in the Caroline Group.

In counting objects, the natives clap their hands, held with the fingers pointed forwards and closed side by side, once when ten is reached, twice when twenty is pronounced, thrice for thirty, and so on. Up to ten counting is done on the fingers, and after that, 10, 11, etc., are reckoned on the toes.

The idea of counting on the feet as well as the hands still survives in Great Britain. An Irish car-driver in Co. Mayo, a few winters ago, used the expression to me, "as many times as I could count on my fingers and toes" for a score. The use of the toes in counting is apt to seem extraordinary to civilized Europeans, who constantly wear boots and shoes, and sit on chairs. The majority of mankind who squat on the floor or ground, and have their toes generally exposed, and from their posture near to their hands, naturally pass to the toes in counting, after having exhausted the hands.

To express affirmation, the natives jerk the head up, as at Fiji. Negation is expressed by a most extraordinary and peculiar method. The nose is struck on its side by the extended forefinger of the right hand, the motion being as if the tip of the nose were to be cut or knocked off. This sign was invariably used to express refusal of proffered barter, or that a native had not got some article asked for. It is capable of various modifications. The quick decided negative is given by a smart quick stroke on the nose. In the doubtful, hesitating negative, the finger dwells on its way, and is rubbed slowly across the nose.

The men average about 5 feet 5 inches in height, and the women about 5 feet 1. They contrast at once with the Papuans of Humboldt Bay, in being far thinner and lankier. Three men who were weighed, averaged only nine stone (137 lbs.) in weight. I saw but one native who was at all fleshy, although such were not uncommon at Humboldt Bay. Food is perhaps not so abundant here as on the New Guinea coast, and the natives had not, like the Papuans, the advantage of bows and arrows to kill game with.

The usual colour of the natives is a black-brown, often very dark, and darker than that of the Papuans of Humboldt Bay. The young girls and young boys appear much lighter as a rule than the adults. Some one or two of the young women were of a quite light yellowish-brown, as was also one young man,