

The sticks or spoons with which the chunam is carried from the gourds to the mouth are often richly carved in the handle. The skulls of Turtles suspended in the temples are ornamented with patterns painted in the three usual colours. The human skulls are likewise decorated, and some have eyes of pearl shell inserted into the orbits on a background of black clay.

The musical instruments used are the Conch shells, perforated on the side as usual, a very simple Jew's-harp, made of bamboo, of the usual Melanesian pattern, Pan-pipes, of three to five pipes of different lengths (the New Hebrides natives have Pan-pipes with three pipes), and lastly, Drums. These latter are hollowed out cylinders of wood with a narrow longitudinal slit only opening to the exterior. Some of them are small, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot or so in length, and are carried sometimes in the canoes. The larger drums I saw only in the temples. They are cylinders 4 feet in height and $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot in diameter, and are fixed upright at the entrances of the temples. There were four such at the four corners of one temple. The slit in these is not more than 4 or 5 inches broad, and I do not understand how the cylinders are hollowed out by the natives. Very similar drums exist at the New Hebrides, at Efate, *e.g.*, where they are stuck upright in the ground in circles.*

The natives seemed to have no idea of tune, they blew the notes on the Pan-pipe haphazard. The chief of Wild Island blew a child's tin trumpet with evident satisfaction. He appropriated it from one of his subjects, to whom I had given it, and came off to the ship standing on his canoe platform and blowing it with all his might, with three bright coloured cricket belts which he had purchased, put on one above the other round his middle. The drums were constantly sounded on Wild Island, often in the afternoon.

The women, both old and young, dance, moving round in a ring with a quick step. The men signified that they danced too, but were not seen to do so. I did not see dancing myself.

I saw some old women performing a kind of incantation. They sat on the ground in the yard of one of the houses, four of them sitting facing one another in a circle, whilst two sat outside the circle. They had their faces and bodies blackened. They uttered at regular intervals a chant, "ai aiai aiai aiai aiai umm." The commencement was shrill, in a high key, and the terminal "umm" was sounded low, with the peculiar humming lingering sound, just as in Fijian chants.

Polygamy is practised. Oto, the chief, told R. Von W. Suhm

* "A Year in the New Hebrides," by F. A. Campbell. Melbourne, George Robertson, 1873, p. III, figure Fili Id Efate.