

and chests, the colouring matter used being an ore of manganese, which gives their bodies a metallic lustre, like that produced by plumbago or boot-blackening. This mode of decoration was often observed in the old women, and especially in a group engaged in singing an incantation. One man, who was possibly a priest, was always thus smeared over the face, arms, and chest, so that perhaps blackening has a religious signification.

The natives almost universally chew betel, using the pepper leaf, areca nut, and lime together as usual. Some one or two men were observed who did not chew at all and had no lime gourds. The lime is carried in gourds of a different form from those used at Humboldt Bay, but perforated in the same manner at one end with a small hole through which the long spoon-stick is inserted. The lime is conveyed to the mouth by means of the stick.

Most of these spoon-sticks were plain (Pl. K. fig. 2, *b*), but some few were carved at the handle end, the finest obtained having belonged to the chief (see fig. 241), and being adorned with a perforated carved handle of considerable artistic merit cut out of the same piece as the stick. These instruments are all narrow in the blade, and show no tendency to broaden out into the spoon shape of the more highly developed corresponding



FIG. 241.—Lime Spoon-stick with carved handle, from the Admiralty Islands.

implements of some other Melanesian races. The majority of them are in the most primitive form of the simple stick only. At Humboldt Bay the lime gourds are seldom decorated, and are of a simple cucumber-like shape. At the Admiralty Islands they are all decorated, and are of a peculiar form, somewhat like an hourglass, being constricted in the middle (see Pl. K. figs. 2, 2*a*, 3). All have a pattern burnt in on their surfaces, which is very peculiar, and almost exactly alike on all. It has no doubt had its origin in the representation of some natural objects, but it appears impossible to make out the nature of this from the pattern in its present condition. One gourd obtained bears a drawing of a lizard; some bear a series of short parallel lines near the middle, possibly marks of ownership (see Pl. K. figs. 2, 2*a*).

The use of kaava and of tobacco is entirely unknown to the natives, kaava being unknown to all other Melanesians except the Fijians, who probably learnt it from Polynesians.

The principal vegetable foods of the islanders are cocoanuts and sago. This last is prepared into a farina, and preserved in hard cylindrical blocks about a foot in height and 6 or 8 inches in diameter. Specimens of the preparation have been placed in the Kew Museum. Taro (*Caladium esculentum*) is also eaten, and is cultivated in small