

BULLETIN No. 16.

HUTS AND SHELTERS.

(Plates xi.-xvii., and Figs. 31-42.)

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1. Undoubtedly there are certain definite types on which shelters and habitations are constructed, *e.g.*, breakwinds and temporary shelters, bark-covers, huts with a square framework, huts with a dome framework—but of true genealogy or relationship it is difficult to speak with certainty. The break-winds would naturally appear first, though the ridge-pole designs with forked uprights are probably of Papuan introduction; indeed, the latter arrangement is certainly connected with the square framework hut met with only in the Peninsula and in the North, but whether connected in the way of progress or retrogression it is impossible to say¹. The common arrangement of two more or less bent sticks interlocking at their forks, met with at such widely separated areas as in the districts around Rockhampton and the whole North-West, coupled with the interlocking of a forked with a purposely-cracked stick at Brisbane, may point to a condition of affairs where the ridge-pole has been done away with, the two forked uprights coming into close apposition, while the simple (single-piece) hoops met with on the Tully River and Coast-line northwards may be an imitation accounted for by the substitution of a pliable material (*e.g. Calamus*, sp.) met with locally in abundance. Any (a) single bent withe or hoop, or (b) two bent withes tied or otherwise interlaced on top, or (c) two forked sloping uprights locked at their forks, will con-

¹ Traces of the forked-upright method of construction were met with in the scaffolding upon which the corpse was laid in the Brisbane area:—See Roth—Bull. 6—Sect. 13, fig. 60.