

ETHNOLOGICAL NOTES.

No. II.

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(Plates Iv–Iviii.)

INTRODUCTION.

The native handiwork described in the following pages includes pieces from Netherlands New Guinea and the Mandated Territory. Most, if not all, are new to the Museum collections, and were received, with few exceptions, in an undocumented condition. The belief that some possess a "pre-Melanesian" interest has prompted their inclusion. The idea of lost races,¹ and incidentally cultures, is gaining many adherents; so much of evidential value has been and is being discovered, all tending to thrust back to remoter times the date of man's advent in the South Seas. Another factor now in operation that the systematist must keep in mind, is the modern transfer of material culture from one group of islands to another. As far back as forty years ago it was recorded that "The labour trade which bids fair to spread over the whole of the Pacific is rapidly destroying all the most characteristic work of the natives. Men of mature age are deported from their own Island to others, often many hundreds of miles away, and they thus carry with them and introduce what may be described as foreign arts into the culture of their new homes."²

It is hoped that this contribution as a whole will at least form an illustrated record of material culture varying in degrees of rarity and specialization.

STONE BOWL.

(Plate Iv, fig. 1.)

This stone bowl, or more probably mortar, composed of a kind of tuff, is irregularly rounded in general outline, the periphery carrying a series of nineteen bosses or knobs, varied in size and spacing. The depression is shallow, its greatest depth being two inches, with a transverse diameter of four and a half inches. The lip of the depression is rounded and marked off by a slight annular depression.

It was discovered by Mr. Wallace Anderson, a pioneer of Edie Creek Goldfield, on a slate bottom, under nine feet of superimposed

¹ Etheridge, R., Junr.—*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, XI, 8, 1917, pp. 202-3.

² Edge-Partington and Heape.—*Ethnographical Album*, First Series, 1890 (Preface).