

# SOME PREHISTORIC AND RECENT STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM NEW GUINEA.

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(Plates viii-xi.)

The implements herein described consist of an interesting collection of prehistoric specimens which includes a number of new types, and a series of implements, also hitherto undescribed types, used by modern natives. All of these pieces are in the collection of the Australian Museum, to whom they were presented by various donors, as stated. To eliminate repetition of the somewhat lengthy localities the following details refer to the majority of the specimens, and the localities are given with those not included below:

Nos. 1-11 (mortars), 14-16 (pestles), 23 (animal figure), 26-29, 32, 40-42 (club-heads) are prehistoric pieces which were unearthed in native gardens in the Iani-Halumgali portion of the southern Wahgi valley. The local natives know nothing about the true origin of these implements and call them *kobiloa* or stones; they believe that they were made by spirits or supernatural agencies, and always wrap them in banana leaves to prevent the women and children seeing them. They were collected and presented by Mr. A. L. Costelloe, District-Officer at Chimbu.

Nos. 13 (mortar), 21-22 (animal figures) are prehistoric pieces found about ten years ago by natives up to a depth of eighty feet in hillsides, after landslides, between Bena Bena and Mt. Hagen. The natives said that these pieces were made by the spirits. They were given to a German named Aufenanger, who was interned, and were subsequently forwarded to the Museum by Mr. Costelloe.

Nos. 24 (abrading stone), 25, 30, 33, 36, 39 (club-heads) were found in native gardens between Bena Bena and Mt. Hagen. They were not used by the local natives, who regarded them simply as stones. Mr. Costelloe has informed me that similar types of club-heads are in use along the Tauri River and could have reached the Wahgi valley by trade, so that it is uncertain whether this series is prehistoric. This series was also in the possession of Aufenanger and was forwarded to the Museum by Mr. Costelloe.

Nos. 31 and 34 (club-heads) are from the Iani-Halumgali portion of the southern Wahgi valley. They were collected and presented by Captain N. B. Blood.

Nos. 35 and 37 (club-heads) were collected in the Mt. Hagen district, Wahgi valley, by Mr. J. L. Taylor, District-Officer, and both are prehistoric pieces found in native gardens.

## A. MORTARS.

1.—E.52454. Circular, grey sandstone with weathered pecked surface, irregular convex base, and eleven convex bosses on the outside. It is 25 cm. in diameter, 10 cm. thick, and has a small hollowed basin 12 cm. in diameter and 4 cm. deep.

2.—E.52455. Oval, grey andesite, pecked surface, well shaped, with ridged lip cracked in seven places, and with eight convex bosses; it is 22 × 20 cm., 11.6 cm. thick, and has a large basin 13.5 × 14 cm. and 4.5 cm. deep, used in modern times for pounding and mixing a pink ochre.