

the bird of paradise. Every species of this lovely bird has a beauty peculiarly its own. From the little king-bird to the magnificent aepennis, all are exquisitely coloured, and their skins and plumes are highly prized by Europeans and even by the natives themselves.

Many of the inhabitants of these beautiful islands have a close resemblance to our Maoris. The tribes inland and those who surround the coast are, however, very different. The people from the interior are smaller, darker, and more hairy than their coastwise brothers. It is probable that the first-named are the indigenous race, the dwellers by the shore being strangers, and having driven the smaller,



NO. 3—CURIOUS FEATHER ORNAMENTS.

darker race further into the interior. None of the inhabitants are, however, noted for great stature; probably their average height barely reaches five feet eight inches. A distinguishing characteristic is their method of wearing the hair. Some favour a frizzy style, the general negro type. Others, as in our illustration (No. 1), adopt the smoother, more European style; whilst the hair of some of the natives is decidedly woolly, and this is not so much admired as the frizzy and popular style. Their features also present considerable variety. The hooked nose of the Papuan race is almost

European, whilst the absence of the nose stick emphasizes this peculiarity. The nasal ornament, which is almost universally worn, is of whatever length the native pleases. It is usually made of pieces of white shell, carefully polished, and the rough edges removed. Illustrations 2 and 3 are excellent examples of this curious form of decoration. The septum of the nose is pierced when the child is about six years old, and the continuous wearing of the stick has the effect of drawing down the nose, which has therefore a marked impression on the configuration of that member.

Very little is worn in the way of clothes by the inhabitants of New Guinea. The few who adopt a string or narrow belt consider themselves far superior, in point of dressing, to those who are in a state of complete nudity. The belt is made from the paper mulberry. The women are rather tastefully robed in white or variegated fine palm leaves. These are formed into strings, plaited, and made into a petticoat. If the women are in mourning, the petticoat is worn much longer, and is not trimmed off neatly. Ear-rings and feather ornaments are much approved of. Some of the former are very large, and are most uncomfortable to wear, whilst others are so light that twenty or thirty can be worn in one ear in perfect comfort. The second illustration is an example of the peculiar and distorting effect caused by the continuous wearing of very heavy ear-rings. Illustration No. 3 shows some of the curious feather ornaments.

The natives are not nearly so much tattooed as are the Maoris, and, as a rule, the tattoo is not worn unless the wearer has become entitled to it by some deed of bloodshed.

As in New Zealand, the pig is made a great pet of by the women. Some of these animals are taken away from their mothers whilst quite young, and the New Guinea women treat them exactly as they do their own little ones, feeding and nursing them with the greatest care. In fact, piggy is made more of than in Ireland, where he is usually considered to play an important part in the home life of many of the inhabitants.

The dead are disposed of in various ways. The spirit is supposed not to leave the body immediately, so it is often buried for a time and then taken up and the bones cleaned and deposited in or near the dwelling. Often the head or jawbone is kept as a relic. Little imitation houses such as those shown in our illustration, are placed in the woods to allure away the spirits. After the manner and custom of ghosts these are supposed to be specially active during a full moon. Probably the effluvium from the corpses produces the feelings of sickness supposed to be caused by the presence of the spirits. Living houses are often built on

piles. The piles support a plat-form made from old canoes or branches, the whole covered with palm branches. Each house or series of houses has a sort of *pater familias*, the rest of the inhabitants being his relations or slaves. A bridge, when the house is on water, connects it with the land. The houses are often adorned with weapons, birds, fishes, and palm branches. Small houses are also found perched high up in trees. A picture is given in which the construction of such a one is shown. One or two of these are generally put up as watch-towers for a village. A picture of some warriors will give a good idea of the native weapons. The use of the bow and arrow is little known



NEW GUINEA WARRIORS.

among the eastern tribes. The Papuan bow is rather short, the arrows being barbed or tipped with lassoary or human bone. Other weapons are a short dart, a heavy spear, a shield, and, of course, stone clubs and axes.



PILE VILLAGE TOLADI—HUMBOLDT BAY, N.G.