

affection. If detected in infidelity, the woman is not unfrequently knocked on the head, or made a slave for life. The man may also be treated in the same manner; but this punishment may also consist in what is called *suabi*. This is a forfeiture of his lands, which is signified by sticking reeds into the ground. These are bound together by knots, so as to form tripods. If the offender wishes to regain his lands, he must purchase the good-will of the offended party by presents. In some cases, the friends of the injured party seize the wife of the offender, and give her to the aggrieved husband. There are also other modes in which a husband revenges himself for the infidelity of his wife, which do not admit of description.

We have seen that the extent to which polygamy is carried is limited only by the will of the man and his means of maintaining his wives. The latter are almost completely slaves, and usually, by the strict discipline of the husband, live peaceably together. The household is under the charge of the principal wife, and the others are required to yield to her control. If they misbehave, they are tied up, put in irons, or flogged.

The birth of the first child is celebrated by a feast on the natal day; another feast takes place four days afterwards, and another in ten days, when suitable presents are made to the young couple.

Parturition is not usually severe, and some women have been known to go to work within an hour after delivery. Others, however, remain under the nurse's care for months. It is the prevailing opinion that hard work makes the delivery more easy. After childbirth the women usually remain quiet, and live upon a diet composed of young taro-tops, for from four to eight days, after which they bathe constantly.

Midwifery is a distinct profession, exercised by women in all the towns, and they are said to be very skilful, performing operations which are among us considered as surgical. Abortion is prevalent, and nearly half of those conceived are supposed to be destroyed in this manner, usually by the command of the father, at whose instance the wife takes herbs which are known to produce this effect. If this do not succeed, the *accoucheur* is employed to strangle the child, and bring it forth dead.

A child is rubbed with turmeric as soon as it is born, which they consider strengthening. It is named immediately, by some relative or friend. If, through neglect or accident, a name should not be forthwith given, the child would be considered as an outcast, and be destroyed by the mother.

Girls reach the age of puberty when about fourteen years old, and boys when from seventeen to eighteen. This period in a girl's life is