

plucked, till they are withered; they are then roasted, by holding them in the hand over the fire, and afterwards laid in the sun for three or four days, to insure them being sufficiently dried. During the latter part of the process, they are brought every evening into the house, to protect them from the dew or rain. When the leaves are sufficiently dry, they are left all night to bleach in the dew; they are then rolled up in balls, and pounded with a mallet to render them soft and pliable, and when this is accomplished, they are slit with a shell and are ready for use. The brown and white slips are braided together, so as to form regular figures, square or diamond-shape, which have a pretty effect. The colours being in the material itself, are retained as long as the fabric lasts. The mode of weaving this matting has been described. The conical cap of the men is at times quite becoming. They cover their shoulders with a small oblong mat, having a slit in the middle through which the head is passed. This part of their dress resembles a "poncho" of small size. The women's dress, which they call "iriri," is quite becoming and graceful: it is a kind of fringe, made of cocoanut-leaves, cut into slips about a foot long, and tied by one end to a string, which goes round the middle: the young leaflets are selected for this purpose, and the rib of the leaf is removed by slitting it down on each side. The leaves are next rolled up and beaten with a mallet, after which they are chewed until they become quite flexible; these narrow ribands are then knotted to a double cord. The dress is fitted on the person, and is then clipped off at equal lengths all around: it has a light and elegant appearance, and yields to any motion of the body, yet never becomes entangled or out of order.

At Apamama, they dip the iriris in cocoanut-oil; at Taputeouea, they steep them in an infusion of the juice which is obtained from a small tree, with large green leaves, called meo: of these leaves a number are pounded in a shell, and a little water poured on them, which is then filtered through the pellicle of the cocoa-nut tree and mixed with molasses. After being steeped in this liquid for some time, the iriri is rolled up in a mat with some leaves of the meo and pandanus-nuts, and roasted in a native oven. By this process it acquires a soft and flexible appearance, and a peculiar odour, which our gentlemen thought was like that of a mixture of tobacco and molasses. Both of these qualities it retains until it is worn out.

The natives are very fond of ornamenting themselves: in the lobes of their ears they wear strings of small leaves of the mangrove, and the pith of a large species of *Scævola*, which is common in the low islands. This pith is cut into strips and put up into a long roll; a wreath of which surrounds the neck, and to which a white ovula-shell,