

BULLETIN No. 15.

DECORATION, DEFORMATION, AND CLOTHING.

(Plates viii.-x., and figs. 14-30H.)

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1. Owing to the immense number of variations met with in the way of fashion, I have found it impossible to carry out my original intention of describing seriatim all local costumes, but propose, as far as possible, detailing the various ornaments and means of cover, constituting clothing, according to the portion of body decorated or covered. Even by this arrangement, difficulties are to be seen in that:—A necklet may be worn as a waist-belt; an article donned by a male may be forbidden to a member of the opposite sex, and *vice versa*; an ornament worn throughout one district with a special signification attached to it may have no meaning whatsoever in another; certain ornaments according to their materials of construction are found only in certain areas; a decoration donned on different parts of the body will convey different meanings, an article of dress essential in early life may be discarded with adolescence; and often nothing at all may be worn in contradistinction to a complete costume indicative of rank, virginity, grief, fight, etc. It has been found convenient to distinguish certain waist-decorations or covers as skeins, belts, or bands, circlets, and apron-belts according to the method of fixation in the first three cases, and the presence of a specially woven tassel-fringe in the last. Certain special decorations met with in the North-West District corroborees, and initiation ceremonies¹, which there is every reason to believe are of foreign origin introduced during the course of trade and barter, have been omitted here.

As a matter of convenience, I also propose dealing in this Bulletin with certain deformations, *e.g.*, tooth-avulsion, nose-boring, digital amputation, and the so-called decorative body-scars, the true origin of which is somewhat doubtful.

¹ Already described in Roth—Ethnol. Studies, etc., 1897, chapters viii., xiii.