

There seem therefore to be some indications of superiority in the inhabitants of the Santa Barbara area: and though a favourable situation and the existence of populous islands in the vicinity of the coast may go a long way towards explaining it, it is difficult not to suspect a further cause in the action of the Mexican culture, the outermost fringe of which may well have affected these shores.

If such a hypothesis is admissible, the throwing-stick brought by HEWETT from Santa Barbara at once acquires a particular interest. It has already been figured by Mr. READ<sup>1)</sup> who draws attention to its divergence from the types used over the Northern, or Eskimo area. The distribution of throwing-sticks is however so attractive a subject, and the existence of a specimen of so marked a type from this particular point so interesting a fact, that I have ventured to give a second illustration as far as possible in the natural colours of the original implement.

The recent literature of American throwing-sticks is practically comprised in papers which have appeared in scientific publications within the last ten years<sup>2)</sup>.

Professor MASON's first paper, which was the cause of the appearance of the others, deals exclusively with the Eskimo types, and does not directly concern us here. It is different with his second paper, and with the contributions made to the subject by Dr. SELER and Mrs. NUTTALL. A glance at the plates and woodcuts given in them will at once suggest a relationship between some of the old Mexican types and our own specimen. To begin with, one of the commonest Mexican forms was furnished with two finger-holes in a horizontal line. This is a salient point: for I am not aware of any other throwing sticks with more than one hole. It is true that the two holes in the Mexican examples seem in many cases to have coalesced into a single horizontal aperture large enough to contain two fingers: while, both in this and in the two-holed form, the part in which the holes were made, whatever its material may have been, was often, if not always, detachable, so that the Mexican thrower would be a composite implement while our own is simple. But the general principle is identical, namely that two fingers were inserted, the implement being consequently of unusual breadth.

The discovery of the modern example from Lake Patzcuaro, figured by Prof. MASON, and similar to our own in all but its length, places a Mexican derivation almost beyond a doubt.

Several distinct types, varying widely in shape, seem to have been in use in ancient Mexico. They were not only intended for actual use, but, like the beautiful examples preserved in Rome and in the British Museum, figured by Dr. STOLPE, often entirely ceremonial. The figures from sculptures and the Codices reproduced by Mrs. NUTTALL show that they were frequently ornamented with feathers and other embellishments. But most were alike, and this is an important point, in belonging to the board type, i. e. are furnished with a longitudinal groove or channel in which the butt of the spear

<sup>1)</sup> Loc. Cit. Plate XI. Fig. 1.

<sup>2)</sup> MASON: "Throwing Sticks in the U. S. National Museum". Smithsonian Annual Report. 1884. - "Throwing Sticks from Mexico and California". Proc. National Museum Vol. XVI. p. 219. - ÜHLE: Ueber die Wurfhölzer der Indianer Amerika's. Mittheilungen der Anthr. Gesellschaft in Wien, Band XVII. (1887) pg. 107 sq. - SELER: Altmexikanische Wurfbretter. This Archiv. III. 137. 1890. - STOLPE: Ueber altmexikanische und südamerikanische Wurfbretter. This Archiv. III. 234. 1890. - NUTTALL: The atlatl or spear thrower of the ancient Mexicans. Archaeological and Ethn. Papers of the Peabody Museum. I. No. 3. 1891. - BAHNSON: Ueber südamerikanische Wurfhölzer im Kopenhagener Museum. This Archiv. II. 217. 1889.