

Useful implements for cutting and piercing were in due time suggested by the incisorial teeth of man and other animals, and the beaks of birds. The action of molars showed how the process of trituration might be performed in the case of seeds and contents of nuts. Such may have been the germ origin of the manufacture of flour. The shell of the sea shore used for the dipping up of fluids led to the use of the spoon; the claw of the feline race probably in late ages gave rise to the fork. It is notorious that the nautilus and its occupant furnished the model for the oared galley. The inner rind of the Papyrus plant was soon seen to be a substance adapted to writing purposes, as also was the fine interior bark (liber) of the Linden and other trees, notably of the white birch so familiar to us Canadians.

The form and fashion of the spider's web may have led the primeval man to a framework for the covering of his hut or tent. The fleecy gossamer of the same ingenious spinner, resulted in many a textile fabric of a more substantial character. The tailor-bird showed how to fasten materials together by means of stitches. The chimney swallow performed the same feat by means of a fine glue. The hanging nests of the oriole, trochilus, and other birds suspended by loops of thread to branches of trees and shrubs existed before the powder wallets, and other pensile appliances employed by human beings about their persons and dwellings. The beautiful forms of minute ice crystals and the fern shaped tracings of hoar frost on smooth surfaces have supplied ideas for the ornamentation of dress-fabrics and the decoration of house interiors.

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