

in the coil just beneath, the stitch looping under a stitch of the lower coil. When this work is carefully done, as among the Indians of New Mexico, Arizona, and California, and in some exquisite examples in bamboo from Siam and in palm-leaf from Nubia, the most beautiful results are reached; but the Eskimo basket-maker does not prepare her coils evenly, sews carelessly, passing the threads sometimes through the stitches just below and sometimes between them, and does not work her stitches home (Fig. 6). Most of these baskets in the collection of E. W. Nelson have a round bit of leather in the bottom to start upon (Fig. 5, *b*). The shape is either that of the uncovered band-box or of the ginger-jar. Especial attention should be paid to this form of stitching, as it occurs again in widely-distant regions in a great variety of material and with modifications producing striking effects.

The association of this coiled form of basket-making with the marks on the most primitive types of pottery-making has been frequently noticed by archæologists. It is also well known that the modern savages of our Southwest build up their pottery in this manner, either allowing the coils to remain or carefully obliterating them by rubbing, first with a wet paddle of wood, and afterwards, when the vessel is dry, with a very fine-grained stone.

The Eskimo women employ in basket-making a needle made of a bird bone ground to a point on a stone (Fig. 100). Fine tufts of reindeer hair, taken from between the hoofs, are extensively used in ornamentation, especially in the Aleutian area.

TINNÉ INDIANS.

A few specimens of basketry from the vast Athapascan area contiguous to the Eskimo belong to the coiled type (Fig. 7). Instead of a bunch of grass, however, a rod of willow or spruce root is carried around in a coil and whipped on with a continuous splint of similar material (Fig. 8). The stitches of the coil in process of formation, passing regularly between those just below and locking into them, alternate with them and give a somewhat twilled effect to the surface* (Fig. 8). If now a strip of bast or grass be laid on the top of the osier or spruce root coil and carried around with it, and the sewing pass always over these two and down between the bast and the osier of the coil below, a much closer ribbed effect will be produced. Several specimens of this kind of coiled basketry, in which a strip of tough material is laid on top of the coiled osier, were collected at the mouth of the Mackenzie River by McFarlane and Ross, and Mr. Murdoch has shown me a basket similarly wrought, from Point Barrow, which he thinks many have been obtained by barter from the Tinné Indians in the vicinity. The ornamentation on one specimen of this type is very

*The working of this stitch is described and figured by Paul Schumacher in XII Report of Peabody Museum, p. 524: the coils are not, however, interlocked in all cases; that is, if the foundation rods were pulled out the stitches would separate and the whole structure come apart in some cases.