

## HUT BOTTOM A—ITS FORM AND THE HABITS OF ITS OCCUPANTS.

As I have already remarked, the site of hut bottom A and its associated dwellings had on the surface the appearance of a communal dwelling, which was eight feet in breadth by thirty long. As our explorations progressed it was found that this oblong depression did not mark the foundations of a single hut but of several placed close together in a row. The exact form and size of the typical hut was disclosed by a layer of clean beach gravel, which we met with about fifteen inches from the surface (J). This layer formed a ring around the fireplace, at a distance of from two to three feet from its centre, and was bordered all around by the shells of a kitchen-midden (H). The ring of gravel was about three inches thick in its deepest part, and was continuous except on the south side, where a break about four feet long marks the position of the door. Here the ends of the gravelly layer were upheld or bounded by a few large stones.

This gravelly stratum was found to form the boundary of a hut bottom, less than one-third of the length of the whole depression occupied by the row of hut bottoms; the hut bottom had a diameter of eight feet. Around the margin of this foundation there were imbedded stones (I) of various sizes that appear to have been used as supports or wedges for poles of which the frame work of the hut was composed. No remains of these poles or of any wood work was discovered which could be referred to the time when this village site was occupied by an aboriginal people.

There are two peculiarities in the foundation of this hut which would lead to the inference that the hut was conical. The first is the relation of the kitchen-midden to the gravel of the sleeping-bench. In making a trench through this hut bottom, and others adjoining, sections of several layers of gravel marking such sleeping-benches were passed through at various depths in the deposit; and in all, the outer edge of the gravel of the sleeping-bench was found to be overlapped by the shells of the kitchen-midden, as though the shells had fallen in upon the gravel after the decay of the poles which had supported the walls of the hut. This overlapping of the