

while the others which split irregularly, or are too short or too thin to be used for that purpose, are put together in bundles of about a dozen each, to form the coils. In weaving, these are kept continuous and of uniform thickness by adding fresh pieces as required, and the whole is covered by whip-stitching with the long regular pieces of splint already mentioned. The coils are laid around, one on top of another, and stitched over and under, commencing at the bottom of the basket (Fig. 131, *a*). With each stitch the awl is made to split part of the splint whipped around the lower coil. The bottom of the basket is made either of coils worked in the ordinary manner, or of thin pieces of wood stitched over. Most of these baskets are water-tight.

In another kind of basketry thin pliable strips of cedar-sap or other wood are used as coils instead of the bunches of split roots. These are stitched over in the same manner and with the same material as the other kind, but are neither as strong nor as durable, nor are they water-tight.

Ornamentation in basketry is produced by hooking in strips of grass and bark with the stitches, so that they cover the latter on the outside only. This is done by bringing the piece of grass over the outside of the last stitch, then doubling it back and catching the doubled end with the next stitch. The outsides of some baskets are completely covered in this manner, so that the whipped cedar-splints can only be seen from the inside. The grass used is that called *nho'itlexin*. It is long, very smooth, and of a glossy yellow-white color. To make it whiter, diatomaceous earth of the same kind as is used for cleaning and whitening goat's hair is sometimes spread over it, and it is then beaten with a flat stick on a mat or skin. The grass is seldom dyed, as the colors are said to fade soon. The Upper Fraser and the Lytton bands sometimes use *Elymus triticoides* Nutt. instead of this grass. The bark used is that of *Prunus demissa* Walpers, which is either left its natural light reddish-brown color, or is dyed by burying it in damp earth. By thus keeping it underground for a short time, it assumes a dark-brown color, while when kept longer it becomes quite black.

Large open-work baskets made of cedar-twigs (Fig. 131, *b*) are also used by the Lower Thompson Indians, while they are unknown on the upper courses of the rivers. These baskets are of the same make as those used on the coast. The rim is made by forming a coil out of the upper, free ends of the twigs, and whipping it with another long twig.

Nowadays the Upper Fraser band occasionally make baskets from the stalks and leaves of Indian-corn.

MATS. — The Upper Thompson Indians make a variety of mats of tule (*Scirpus* sp.) and bulrushes (*Typha latifolia* L.), which are woven or sewed with twine made of the bark of *Apocynum cannabinum* L. The method of making large tent-mats is shown in Fig. 131, *c*. The end of the mat is made of rosewood. The reeds are strung on bark strings, and held in place by other bark strings which pass around them near their ends. Mats made of young reeds and bulrushes, which are used to cover the floor of the lodge and as table-mats, are