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ENT.

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

16-24

No

8252

Country

Br. Guiana

People

Savanna Tribes
Arecuna

Locality

Name

Five blow gun.
(over)

Collection

Where Placed

Notes

av. 14

22h. 1918 The blowgun, which is one of the most typical South

American weapons, is, in Guiana, found only among the tribes of the savannas, seldom or never among the forest peoples. The blowgun is used almost exclusively for hunting birds in the trees. For this purpose it is much superior to a shotgun as it is noiseless and a large number can be taken from one flock before the others take flight. Poisoned darts are shot by the blowgun by the force of the breath to a distance of fifty feet.

The blowgun is made of a great hollow reed. *Arundinaria Shomburgkii*, which grows near the sources of the Orinoco and is traded by the tribes living in that region to the more remote natives. A straight section between two nodes, from eight to fourteen feet long, is cut and dried. To prevent warping a section of a certain palm is taken and bored for its entire length with a sharply pointed stick; this is then slipped over the reed like a sheath. String is generally wrapped around one end and a sight made of two peccary teeth is generally affixed to the center of the gun by means of pitch. Frequently the gun is further decorated with plaited splints in basketry technique.

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