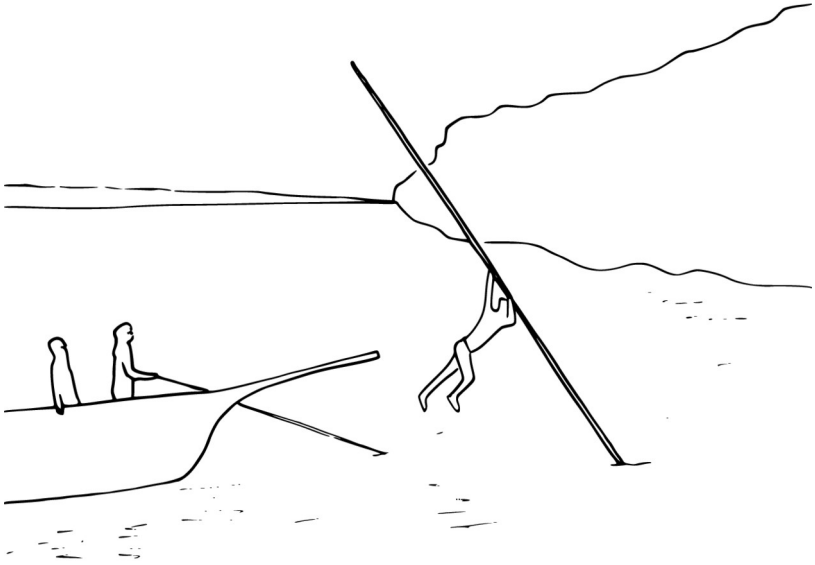


Fig.080 Illustration showing the dexterity of natives in carrying on strenuous tasks like the night fishing of the dugong. With relative easy they are able to master what no other colonizer can master, also swimming long stretches and running in a jungle while bending below and above fallen trees. And after a day on the move, they are able to dance through the night.

Physical-health Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives do not practice running "except for a short distance" when hunting and then walking on a good road they are "passed without difficulty" by Indian colonizers. In the jungle however they are able to "bound over rocks, fallen trees, mangrove roots, and other obstacles" with great ease and rapidity. Also, swimming is "common to members of both sexes" and native children learn it "as soon as they can run" acquiring "great proficiency". While they surpass European swimmers, they are remarkable not so much for speed, as for the length of time they can "remain in the water". Similarly with archery Europeans cannot compete with the natives' skill of "rapid shooting" in "full force" on moving targets. Above all natives are "gifted with extremely keen sight". They detect "birds or other objects" so hidden as to be "hardly distinguishable". Moreover, they have an "especially keen scent" and are able to specify and "direct their steps towards" a distant tree that "happen to be in blossom". And their sense of taste enables them to discriminate between the various flowers from which "the bees have produced their honey" and "their sense of hearing" is so acute that they spear turtles at night when they rise to the surface to breath. Children play "pig-hunting" with some of them being shot with "harmless arrows" or "turtling" with one diving into the water followed by the rest. (Man 1883).