

**Coir.** The prepared fiber of the husk or pericarp of the cocoa-nut, which is made into rope, matting, brushes, etc.

The nut is picked a little before it is ripe, and the pericarp stripped from the nut by forcing it upon an iron stake fixed in the ground. The rind is then soaked in water for several months to soften the substance which fills the interstices between the fibers. It is then beaten upon a stone with a heavy piece of wood, and then rubbed by the hands. Forty cocoa-nuts yield six pounds of *coir*.

The operation of twisting it into yarn is similar to that pursued with hemp.

Coir cordage is lighter than hemp, is pliable, and has a strength, compared with hempen rope, of 87 to 108 with large rope, and 60 to 65 with small rope.

It is well adapted for hawsers, as it is light enough to float in sea-water, and also for running-rigging, but is not so well adapted for standing-rigging, owing to its contractibility.

Coir is also made from the long, fibrous, black, cloth-like covering of the *Borassus gonnutus*.