

Fig. 5: This medium sized bead doll was obtained from a Xosa (Tembu) woman near Pedie in the Transkei. The purpose of it is similar to that of the Ndebele bead dolls, but this one has been handed down from grandmother to granddaughter for a generation.

The hard core of this doll is made of grass onto which has been sewn the first strands of beads. The construction is cylindrical with only the beads shaped round. Many clothes of beadwork, each with its own pattern and colour combinations, have been wrapped around the figure in imitation of real life beadwork finery worn by the women of this tribe. Three layers of strands of beads have been sewn onto the base to simulate a many tiered skirt. Each of these strands is matched in colour and conforms to several intricate patterns. The face is reddish brown, the hair black, with two multi-coloured beaded strands presenting back and front. Coloured beaded earrings are also shown. The colour combinations massed on this doll can hardly be described. Blue and white predominate, with black, orange and brown represented. The beads used are irregular and small such as they were used in early trade. The height of the doll is 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, the width 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches while the skirt spreads at the base.

Fig. 6: This very large bead doll was recently made for the author by a woman of the Makatees clan of the Pedi near Denilton in the Eastern Transvaal. The doll is in a form imitating that one given to little girls as toys and afterwards treasured in adult life to bring fertility.

The construction of this doll is very elaborate. Some influence of two differing tribal modes of dress can be seen on it; that of the Pedi and of their close neighbours, the Ndebele. A hard core has been made from cloth and bark bound with string. The shape is conical with no differentiation of torso, neck or head. The doll stands on a leather band base on which small pearl buttons have been sewn.



Fig. 5

Fig. 6