

turn around its neighbour. The third strand, after taking a turn around the second, is inserted upwards through the loop made by the first strand, and all three are pulled taut. The ends can be cut off, but half an inch or more should always be left to flay out, and thus materially assist in preventing the knot from becoming undone.

For general purposes this is sufficient, but to make it more secure a crown is placed on the top by crossing the strands one over another as in Fig. 11, and hauling taut. The three strands are now all pointing downwards, and to make one of the most efficacious ends to a rope, these can be spliced back. The result is a large knob on the end, and to avoid this an excellent plan is to make only the crown, as shown in Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.—The crown made by itself, and the strands spliced back a short distance down the rope (not tapered).

By itself, the crown will not last, and the strands must be spliced back. (Fig. 12.) For convenience they should be tapered while being spliced, as this precaution will be found of very material assistance when drawing the end out of tight loops in undoing knots. All plough reins and halters should either be lashed, or finished off in this way.

The next section will deal with knots.

(To be continued.)

ADDITIONAL SKIN-IRRITATING PLANTS.

(See previous references in the *Gazette* for February and December, 1909, and December, 1911.)

1. *Olvaria viscidula*, Benth., a native shrub-daisy, with white flowers, bears the extraordinary name of "Verbena" in the Tamworth district. It is coated with a sticky resinous substance, and since it is a useless plant, it is often hand-pulled, but the men (or, at least, some of them) doing the work suffer from a kind of skin-poisoning (dermatitis) as the result. Leather gauntlets should be used by men so affected.

2. "Vanillism" is a skin ailment in tropical countries, to which people who handle Vanilla are liable. See H. N. Ridley's "Spices," p. 66.—J. H. MAIDEN, Government Botanist.