

Pregnancy until childbirth.

When a woman was known to be pregnant her condition was kept secret, for fear of those who might by sorcery contrive the death of mother and child.

(Obtain tabunea: - Je wairia  
Je waina)

The remains of all her food were kept and everything that touched her body.

When it was plain to all that she was pregnant a piece of land was prepared for her on the ocean beach. To this she was taken and the "Eremao", or cutting of the ma-o-scrub, took place. She was given to wear a girdle of the bark of the Kanawa-tree twisted into strands. This was when she was in her sixth month.

(Obtain incantation of Eremao and marainai)

When time of delivery arrived a midwife came to prepare her with tabueas.

(Obtain tabunea of the Tobi)

And when she was in labour, she sat before another woman called the deliverer (the Katska)

(Obtain tabunea)

If the delivery was long or painful she was given to drink a magic potion by a third woman who awaited such an event. (Obtain particulars and charm)

When child was born, it remained 3 days in the house of its birth, and was said to "complete its days in the House of Spirits", the chief spirit to appease being Nri Hibon of the honzon. (Obtain spells)

After 3 days the child was taken to another house and was said to "enter the House of man." Its mats and coverings were all changed for new.

The child was welcomed by a feast of the clan, and a dance in which its luck was intoned.

The nursing mother was forbidden to walk in the sun, as it was considered bad for the milk. When, rarely, she went out she covered her head with a mat and her breasts with a riri. Only two foods were allowed her — kamorna and fish. Of all fish the beach-crab was said to give the richest milk. She would have no sexual connection for a year.

Birth Butaritari.

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The midwife cut the cord.  
The child was named by  
mother & father. This was a  
matter of mere arrangement. A name  
was chosen from among the  
ancestors of man or woman.

B.ita. Nonanti:

- ① When the fragment of umbilical cord falls from child's navel it is carefully preserved in an wri leaf until the child is old enough to walk. The leaf is then put in child's hand and it is told to throw it into sea. If child throws it far out, it will be a great voyager.
- ② Child's stool is preserved in leaf and buried in a hole far from any fire. The belief is that if it is burned the child will become a leper.