



Fig. 11

## CROSS TONGUE JOINTS.

In South Wales Oak furniture, long butt joints were commonly strengthened with cross-tongues; loose tongues mortised into each side of the joint and secured with pegs, from one to three each side, according to the size of the tongue, Fig. 11

The tongues thus performed the same function as dowels. I have seen them used on the tops of long dining-tables, chests, dressers, round three-legged tables, and gate-leg tables. The effect can be decorative, as seen where the six pegs showed as a circle of dark oak dots on the surface of a pale ash tabletop.

The diagrams (Figures 12 and 13) show the idea, and the photo shows a typical six-peg cross-tongue on an oak long dining-table top.

At our Duffryn weekend, a member stated that he had only ever seen cross-tongues used in Welsh furniture. It would be very interesting if as many members as possible would write in to the Newsletter Editor to say *whether or not* they have seen cross-tongues in furniture attributed to other areas. It may be that this joint will turn out to be a useful regional "signature". Anyway, I hope we shall have a big enough response to form a valid mini-survey, with results to be reported in a subsequent newsletter.

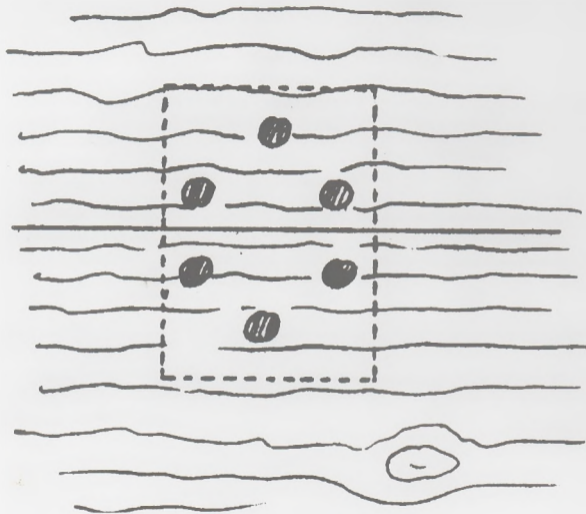


Fig 12



Fig 13