

(mal de terre and mal de mer). A description of the symptoms and its treatment as noted by Jacques Cartier has already been given. It is interesting to note here that new and more drastic remedies were evidently resorted to. Captain Knox in his Journal writes:

"This morning I was an eye witness to the ceremony of burying a man alive, *mirabile dictu*, for the sea scurvy. To explain this matter, it must be observed that a pit was made in the ground, and the patient stood in it, with his head only above the level earth; then the mould was thrown in loose about him: and there he remained for some hours; this, I am told, is to be repeated every day until his recovery is perfected."

Scurvy, which was known in the early days of New France under the name of "Mal de terre," and later found to be the same disease as "Mal de mer," was certainly one of the chief causes which retarded the colonization of Canada. The disastrous results were seen at Tadoussac (1600), Island of St. Croix (1604-5), Port Royal (1506-9), Quebec (1609), and on the Island of Miscou (1635).

After scurvy came smallpox with its attendant train of fatalities. There were during the French regime four characteristic epidemics: 1703, 1732, 1733 and 1755.

The epidemic of 1703 was particularly severe. The registers of the Province of Quebec show that there were over two thousand deaths, Indians included. "Never had such a misery been seen," remarks the historian of the Hôtel Dieu of Quebec. "Every one was deploring the loss of a relative, one of his wife, another of her husband, one his brother, another of his children. Orphans wept for their parents; all were in tears, and there were no gatherings except for funerals."