

Some ingenuity is shown in setting the common steel fox-trap in winter. A wall of snow about eighteen inches high is built in the shape of half a circle the diameter of which is about two and a half feet. Near the centre from which the arc is drawn, the snow is first well pressed. A hole the shape of the trap is then dug with a knife and the trap being let into it, it is carefully covered with a thin crust of snow so that even if the fox does not actually tread upon the small pan, part of the crust when broken will start the trap. In front, and just under the wall small pieces of bait are placed so that in shifting its position to take each piece of bait the fox is certain to tread upon the trap.

The Eskimos amusements are few, and only in one or two do they seem to take much interest. Throwing the harpoon had the greatest attraction for the men, and often they might be seen taking their turns at a mark in the snow. Wrestling and running are occasionally indulged in, but the weaker side soon loses interest and gives in. Mr. Stupart informs me that while he was stationed here a large snow pleasure house was built, supported in its centre by a pillar of snow. The only game noticed, in which they took part in this house, was a kind of tilting, an ivory ring being suspended from the ceiling through which the men tried to put their spears as they walked quickly round the pillar.

During my stay here football was introduced, and in this they appear to take more interest than in any other game. The bladder of a walrus was well blown and then covered with leather making an excellent football, and it was a novel sight to see them playing. Men, women, and children all took part in it, and no quarter was allowed. Here a woman carrying her child on her back might be seen running at full speed after the ball, and the next moment she might be seen lying at full length with her naked child floundering in the snow a few feet beyond her. A minute later the child would be again in its place and nearly choking with laughter she would be seen elbowing her way after the ball again.

Catching trout in the summer in the manner described affords great amusement to the children and wild with excitement they were often seen pursuing a poor unfortunate fish in a shallow stream. The boys also spend a great deal of time in making small spears