

suspected. As threats are thus often actually followed by the dire results predicted, persons who may chance to fall sick, or to meet with any accident, become accustomed to attribute their misfortune to the machinations of an enemy or to the ill-will of some medicine-man; and in order to counteract it, they must employ another medicine-man to remove the cause. Thus the established belief in the powers of the medicine-man brings much grist to his mill. The "opposing counsel" having received his fee, in the shape of some article of value to an Indian, will proceed with some grotesque ceremony and pretend to draw to himself and nullify the evil influence which has been troubling his client. He will affect to suck out the poison from the man's body or to go through agonies of pain, writhing and twisting himself amidst many groans, as if he were receiving, all at once, the essence of the disease of his patient. Or he may make-believe that he has been suddenly struck internally by some sharp instrument. The shock and accompanying exclamation are followed by spitting blood (usually from having surreptitiously lanced his gums) and the coughing up of an arrow-point, or a small piece of sharp bone or stone, which the evil spirit of the other sorcerer had transferred to him. In a short time the patient is expected to say he feels better; otherwise it is a sort of slight on the "strength" of the conjurer's "medicine." Sometimes the medicine-man will pretend to receive these sudden internal shocks to show the potency of some other member of the profession at a distance and the danger resulting therefrom, and hence the necessity for his own "strong medicine" as an antidote. He will then spit up the mysterious missile along with some blood, and after a groan or two will subside with a sigh of relief.

One of the modes of conveying an evil influence to a distance is to make a drawing on a piece of birch bark, or even in the sand, to represent the figure of the person to be injured, and then to select the site of the organ, as the heart, lungs, or bowels, which is to be operated upon. This is then stabbed through with a sharp instrument, or touched with poison, and an appropriate charm is repeated at the same time.

The apparent uncertainties of human life and fortune, and