

recoveries, even after wounds of the most appalling nature. These remarks though still substantially true, apply more directly to a period antecedent to their complete suppression and degradation, by what with grim irony goes by the name of "Civilization." At present as a race, too many of them, more especially the feeble remnant, not exceeding 7,000 in number, of the once proud and powerful tribes of the Blackfeet, Bloods and Peigans, now known as the Blackfoot Confederacy, established along portions of the "Old Man's, the "Bow" and the "Belly" rivers, from one to two hundred miles southeastward of where we are now assembled; have long been so debauched and degraded by intercourse with Europeans, wherever in the course of their wanderings they have been brought into close relations with them; and so universally contaminated with syphilitic disease in every conceivable form, manifesting itself as I have too often noticed throughout entire families, in scrofulous affections, clearly complicated with, if not wholly dependent upon hereditary Syphilis; that it is now difficult if not impossible to find any among them altogether free from such constitutional pollution and defilement.

In their normal condition, living a wandering life in the open air, the boundless sky above them, the boundless plains below, they enjoyed a remarkable exemption from acute idiopathic inflammatory affections of the parenchymatous structures and serous membranes, which we who have supplanted them in their ancient homes, still continue to enjoy. During upwards of nearly eight years spent in active professional work in various parts of these Territories, exercising medical supervision over a large number of comparatively unacclimated men, whose duties often subjected them to more than ordinary exposure; I have never during that period, seen a single case of Idiopathic Pneumonia, Pleuritis, or Peritonitis; though owing to causes hereafter to be referred to, painful neuralgic affections, too often mistaken by the careless and inexperienced for these graver forms of disease, are not uncommon.

In looking back recently over the Monthly Sick Reports for several years past, I find only one case of Pneumonia recorded; and this solitary case occurred in a division stationed in the Kootenay Valley in British Columbia, 120 miles south of this hotel, ("Banff,") during December, 1887.

It is true that we now find among the Indians in their present degraded and dependent condition; and more especially during youth and adolescence, chronic pulmonary affections in some respects resembling Phthisis; but the ultimate conviction impressed upon my mind has hitherto been, that these are but the too common manifestations of a pseudo-scrofulous form of disease, originating in the fatal and universal contamination of their progenitors, to which I have already referred. I have in my possession records written by men of great intelligence, going back 125 years and more, who from personal intercourse with the primitive races of these plains, were familiar with their true condition, before they became

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