

grua. The natives have a great dread, apparently superstitious, of these bees and the large gadflies (*Cestens tarandi*), one of which I have seen scatter half a dozen people.

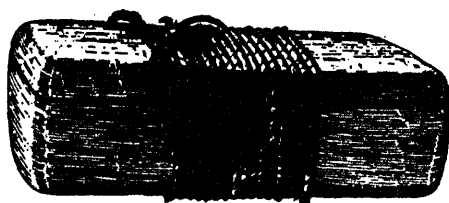


FIG. 428.—Box of dried bees—amulet.

A man one day caught one of these, and whittled out a little box of wood, in which he shut the insect up and tied it up with a shred of sinew, telling Capt. Herendeen that it was "tuñamun," for "tuña."

A small lump of indurated gravel (No. 56725) [273] was one day brought over from

Utkiavvñ, with the story that it was a "medicine" for driving away the ice. The man who uses this charm stands on the high bank at the village, and breaking off grains of the gravel throws them seaward. This will cause the ice to move off from the shore.

The essential identity of the amulets of the Point Barrow natives with those used by the Eskimo elsewhere is shown by the following passages from other writers. Egede says:¹

A Superstition very common among them is to load themselves with Amulets or Pomanders, dangling about their Necks and Arms, which consist in some Pieces of old Wood, Stones or Bones, Bills and Claws of Birds, or Anything else which their Fancy suggests to them.

Crantz says:²

They are so different in the amulets or charms they hang on people, that one laughs at another's. These powerful preventives consist in a bit of old wood hung around their necks, or a stone, or a bone, or a beak or claw of a bird, or else a-leather strap tied round their forehead, breast, or arm.

Parry speaks³ of what he supposes were amulets at Iglulik, consisting of teeth of the fox, wolf, and musk-ox, bones of the "kablëarioo" (supposed to be the wolverine), and foxes' noses. Kumlien says⁴ that at Cumberland Gulf, "among the many superstitious notions, the wearing of charms about the person is one of the most curious. These are called *angoouk* or *amusit*, and may be nothing but pieces of bone or wood, birds' bills or claws, or an animal's teeth or skin." A little girl "had a small envelope of sealskin that was worn on the back of her inside jacket" containing two small stones.

Such little pockets of skin sewed to the inner jacket are very common at Point Barrow, but we did not succeed in any case in learning their contents. At Kotzebue Sound, Beechey saw ravens' skins on which the natives set a high value, while the beaks and claws of these birds were attached to their belts and headbands.⁵ Petitot describes⁶ the amulets used in the Mackenzie district, in the passage already quoted, as "défroques empaillées de corbeau, de faucon ou d'hermine." It is

¹Greenland, p. 194.

²History of Greenland, vol. 1, p. 216.

³Second voyage, p. 497.

⁴Contributions, p. 45.

⁵Voyage, p. 333.

⁶Monographie, etc., p. xv.