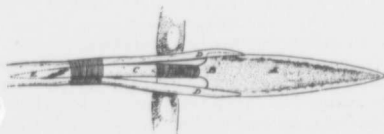


Trephining.—The skull has been trephined by savages for the purpose of allowing the escape of an evil spirit that could not be dislodged by ordinary exorcism. It is practised to this day by the South Sea Islanders, and by some of the Arab tribes of Algeria, but I cannot find that it was practised by the North American Indian medicine man. In America only one skull has been discovered that showed evidence of prehistoric trephining. This skull was that of one of the Incas, and was found in Peru. In the Island of Ewea, in the Loyalty group, according to Martin, nearly all of the male adults have this hole in the cranium. The operation seems to have been performed upon them for the relief of convulsions in infancy or childhood.

Fractures.—For the treatment of fractures they made splints out of the bark of trees. The bark was adapted to the limb and fastened to it to prevent any motion at the ends of the broken bone. Deformities often followed such treatment. They were evidently unacquainted with the use of extension in the treatment of fractures.



No. 23.

THE EXTRACTION OF AN ARROW HEAD.

Amputations.—The Dakotas laughed at the folly of amputation. Some of them would rather have died than to have had it done. There seems to have been a prejudice against amputation, and I cannot find that it was adopted as a practice.

Hernia.—When a hernia was found to be strangulated, nothing was done to relieve the condition. To keep up simple ruptures they applied a bandage and used compression.

Aneurism.—Aneurism was evidently a very rare disease among the Indians. I find no reference to any form of treatment adopted for the cure of aneurism.

Ulcers and Burns.—The Dakotas treated ulcers and sores by dusting on them the dry pulverized root of the butterfly weed or pleurisy root (*Asclepias Tuberosa*). In other tribes a powder made by pulverizing the root of the sweet flag (*Acorus Calamus*) was used. Poultices were often applied to ulcers and the ulcers were frequently cauterized with a red hot iron.

Burns were treated by placing over them pieces of the inner bark of some species of pine that was boiled until it was soft.