

medicine-man a knowledge of drugs is valuable, principally to enable him to carry out different kinds of poisoning as may best serve his ends. His most important function and the secret of his power is his dealing in occult influences.

In former times, the great medicine-men among these Indians devoted their whole lives to the study and practice of their art, and even yet it receives the greater part of their attention. They were accustomed to do no common work, but lived at the expense of the band they were amongst. They had great influence with the people, principally from preying upon the superstitious fears which had become inculcated by their own class from generation to generation for this express purpose. For the medicine-men form a secret society, with exclusive privileges, and they exercise a terrible influence in degrading their people. The seeming respect which is accorded to them is begotten of cowardly fear which has formed part of the education of the rank and file. They pretend to dispense good and bad luck, to control the weather, to be able to influence the movements of game and fish so as to bring plenty or starvation to the tribe, to predict events, to tell the fortunes of individuals, to bring about the sickness or death of men or dogs at a distance, and generally to have the confidence and coöperation of both good and bad spirits, with whom they communicate freely on certain set occasions.

The common people employ them in favor of themselves or their friends, or against their enemies, just as we do lawyers—for a consideration. It is here that the secret society business comes to their aid. Among the Outchipwai Indians there are many hypocrites who have not the manliness to fight their enemies fairly, or to openly resent an injury, or even to tell an adversary their opinion of him to his face. Such individuals will smile and profess great friendship, while harboring the bitterest enmity and even murderous designs. An Indian may be living at a considerable distance from the person he wishes to injure, and in order to gratify his revenge he will hire his medicine-man to carry out his purpose. But the latter will never appear on the scene. He will find means to operate secretly through another medicine-man who may not even be