

AN article of considerable length and interest might be written on the different forms of cradles, or contrivances for holding infants, for carrying them, and for keeping them warm and out of harm's way ; and when we read of the many accidents that befall the young children of white parents, from falls or from pulling over heavy articles or scalding fluids, one is tempted to think a useful lesson might be learned from the simple contrivances of the red mother for the safety and comfort of her little one. Amongst the Esquimaux, carrying the children in large hoods against the mother's back is a common custom, and this is supposed to account for so many of these people having their legs "bowed," a form aggravated in after years by the cramped position in which they sit on a ledge in their huts. Amongst the Indians of the Upper Yukon, whose life is not nomadic, the children, says Dr. Dall, are lashed to a kind of coal-scuttle-shaped cradle all day, and at night sleep in a hammock. Amongst the Western Esquimaux, a trough-shaped cradle is made of birch bark, stitched together with pine root fibre, and stiffened with strips of osiers, a hood of the same being constructed by a flap of bark, kept off the head by osier bands, and allowing netting in summer to be placed over it to keep off the mosquitoes. These troughs are partially filled with dry rotten wood, dust or moss, and furs are added in winter, principally hare skins.

Sir A. Mackenzie speaks of the "swaddling board," used by the mothers on the Mackenzie River, which was a board two feet long, covered with a bed of moss, to which the child was fastened with bandages ; and Fitzwilliam, another explorer, found these boards with two side-flaps of skin, which lace up in the centre, the child's arms being laced firmly down by its sides, and only the head at liberty. This is slung on the mother's back when travelling, or reared against a tree when resting in camp, the child being only occasionally released from bondage