

Fridtjof Nansen in his "Eskimo Life" writes: "Meat and fish are eaten sometimes raw and frozen, sometimes boiled, sometimes dried . . . . Among other dainties I must mention the skin (matak) of different sorts of whales, especially of the white whale and porpoise, which is regarded as the acme of deliciousness. The skin is taken off with the layer of blubber next to it, and is eaten raw without further ceremony . . . the skin is as tough as India-rubber to masticate, so that the enjoyment can be protracted to any extent . . . A delicate dish which does not however rival matak, is raw halibut skin. It has the advantage that, by reason of its toughness, it goes such a long way . . ." "The Greenlander is also very fond of raw seal skin with the blubber." In another place again in describing their physical characteristics he writes: "He has a . . . broad mouth; heavy, broad jaws; which, together with the round cheeks, give the lower part of the face a great preponderance in the physiognomy. When the mouth is drawn up in an oleaginous smile two rows of strong white teeth reveal themselves. One receives the impression, upon the whole, of an admirable chewing apparatus. . . ." Another author, Mr. H. Whitney<sup>1</sup>, relating his experiences among the Highland or Northernmost Eskimos, writes: "While Eskimos eat much of their meat raw and relish it so, they prefer it cooked when conditions permit of cooking. It can be understood how difficult it is to cook it when it is remembered that the only fire they possess is the one supplied by the stone lamps." "The skins (of the little auk) are first thoroughly dried, then the women chew the flesh side until all oil is extracted and the skin is soft and pliable and ready to be sewn into the garment with sinew. In preparing seal and other skins for sewing the women always resort to the chewing process." "The main feature of the feast was an uncooked meal." "They get sustenance too by eating hard frozen raw walrus and seal meat or blubber." "A stone lamp was set up, but the seal blubber frozen hard had to be thawed before it could be burned. This was done by the Eskimos chewing and spitting it when softened, into the lamp." "Even little

<sup>1</sup>See "Hunting with the Eskimos," by H. Whitney.