

coast tribes, and possess somewhat finer features. In the coarseness of the mouth, width and prominence of the cheek bones, and somewhat disproportionately large size of the head as compared with the body, the main departures from ideal symmetry are to be found. The body is also not infrequently long and large as compared with the legs, a circumstance doubtless brought about by the constant occupation of these people in canoes and the infrequency of their land excursions. The hair is black and coarse, and only in the case of 'medicine men' have I observed it to be allowed to grow long in the male sex. A scanty moustache and beard sometimes clothe the upper lip and chin, generally in the case of old people who have given up the habit of eradicating the hair as it grows. In some instances, and these more numerous than in the other coast tribes, both men and women of prepossessing appearance, and with features of considerable regularity as measured by European standards, occur. The average physiognomy of the Haida shows more evidence of intelligence and quickness than that of most of the coast tribes, an appearance not belied on more careful investigation. I have not been able to discern in their appearance anything of that exceptional fierceness said to be characteristic of them by the earlier voyagers, and can only suppose that these statements may have arisen from the more elaborate character of their armament and dress, and the liberal application of pigments to the skin. Many of the Haidas are said to be strong and dexterous swimmers, but I have never seen them exercising the art, which may probably be reserved for occasions of necessity. They are not long-lived, though grey-haired men and women may occasionally be seen. Pulmonary diseases accompanied by spitting of blood, and blindness generally caused by a species of ophthalmia, are not uncommon; and other diseases incident to a life of exposure tend to reduce the term of life, as they do among all the aborigines of the continent. Besides these, however, and much more fatal, are diseases introduced among them since contact with the whites. Great numbers of the Haidas, with all the other tribes of the coast, have been cut off by small-pox, both during their periodical visits to Victoria and after their return to their native islands. This disease is with them almost certainly fatal, and I could learn of a single instance only in which recovery had occurred. Owing to the complete demoralization of the Haidas since contact with the whites, and their practice of resorting to Victoria and other places, where they maintain themselves by shameless prostitution, venereal diseases are extremely common and destructive.

In dress the Haidas, like other Indians, have adopted, so far as their means enable them, the customs of the whites, though their costume as a rule might be considered rather scanty, and some of the