

their practice is invariably to find a small bone out of joint, which they incontinently proceed to reduce with an audible snap (of their own hidden thumb and finger, be it added), they do not attempt to reduce dislocations of the larger joints.

I once had a case of dislocation of the hip of fourteen weeks' standing brought to me a distance of fifteen hundred miles. It took six weeks of that time, after the *rebouteur* had done with the sufferer, for the patient to reach Montreal in a box like a closely-fitting coffin. The padding was so perfect that movement of either limb or body was thoroughly prevented during a rough journey.

Domestic surgery in civilised countries might in some things learn a little from the primitive methods of our aborigines. Take, as an instance, the treatment of the newborn infant. The yielding abdominal walls are never compressed by an unyielding bandage, and the young bird in its nest is not more comfortable than the Indian babe unencumbered by swaddling clothes. As the varied movements of respiration are not impeded, the infant cries but seldom. It never suffers from local troubles as the children of the whites often do. The urine is carried beyond the infant's person, if a male, by an ingenious mechanical support which directs the stream. Feculent matter is received into dry moss, which is to be found, in large quantities, in every wigwam where there is an infant.

If, in the depths of the forest, an Indian breaks his leg or arm, splints of softest material are at once improvised. Straight branches are cut, of uniform length and thickness. These are lined with down-like moss, or scrapings or shavings of wood; or with fine twigs interlaid with leaves, if in summer; or with the curled-up leaves of the evergreen cedar or hemlock, if in winter; and the whole is surrounded with withes of willow or osier, or young birch. Occasionally it is the soft but sufficiently unyielding bark of the poplar or the bass-wood. Sometimes, when near the marshy margin of our lakes or rivers, the wounded limb is afforded support with wild hay, or reeds of uniform length and thickness,

To carry a patient to his wigwam, or to an encampment, a stretcher is quickly made of four young saplings, interwoven at their upper ends, and on this elastic springy couch the injured man is borne away by his companions. When there are