

be indigenous not far from the district, and among Indians with whom they have casual communication. The disease is locally known as the "Nelson River Complaint," and among the Indians "Muchetas-pinawin"—literally, bad disease. It appears, from description, to be contracted or contractable by the ordinary modes in which syphilis is contracted, but its appearance and results differ widely. Although evidently a primary disease, it is usually seen in a form similar to the so-called tertiary form of syphilis, and exhibits itself in patches of scab raised above the skin, more or less extensive in various parts of the body. The scalp is sometimes covered with it, also the scrotum, prepuce, genitals, lips, elbows, and large joints. In appearance, and when fully developed, it is an elevated greenish-yellow incrustated scab. When this is removed by friction or otherwise, a raw surface is exposed, which, however, granulates and heals, to break out in a contiguous place, unless again exposed to the issue of contagious sores. The lining membrane of the mouth is also attacked, and a warty excrescence of greater or less extent grows there. My informant has seen the whole of the tongue covered with the growth, and at the same time, in the same individual, the scalp matted with the incrustated scab. On the same man, also, old cuts opened and discharged a thin ichorous fluid. My informant heard that when the nose is attacked, the cartilaginous substance is not unfrequently destroyed, as in syphilis. Chancre is said to exist, but no history of bubo is traceable, as it was represented as being always the result of infected coition; although I have since learnt that other means of infection must not be precluded, as the interchange of pipes, and using the same eating utensils, etc. The name known for this complaint in the settlement of olden times was *Sivvens*, which certainly points to a species of *Frambæsia*, the French nomenclature now taking the place of the old Celtic *sivvin*, and so corrupted to *sivvens*, and the Scotch *sibbens*. This, however, is not generally known to be endemic to North America. A medical authority of the settlement told my informant that he believed it to be a form of syphilis. My informant himself saw several cases at Norway House, on Lake Winnipeg, and found it yielded readily