

NOTES ON DISEASES AMONG THE INDIANS FRE- QUENTING YORK FACTORY, HUDSON'S BAY.

By PERCY W. MATHEWS, M.R.C.S.E., M.R.C.P. (LONDON),
Medical Officer to the Hudson's Bay Company.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, of Montreal, Feb. 1885.)

In treating of diseases in the district under consideration, it is impossible, even were it desirable, within the limits of this paper to touch upon other than those which are most common, and to refer to any modifying or exaggerating influences which endemic circumstances may seem to have over them. Therefore, for the purpose of ensuring what I deemed to be a fair average, I have taken account of the last twenty years (1864-84), and thereby ascertained the death-rate to be 12 per 1,000 of the Indian population, which somewhat exceeds 500; but it is necessary to explain that this refers to registered deaths at York settlement only, as it is for no longer a period than the space of six weeks or possibly two months that this population is gathered in and around York, though it must be recognized that the period in question may be considered the most unhealthy of the whole year—June, July and August. Hence, during some ten months, the population is reduced possibly by some 300 souls; although, when it is practicable, sick Indians are brought in to the local hospital at any time of the year. Still, if all deaths in connection with this population were taken into consideration, the ratio per thousand, as far as I am able to ascertain, would