

WHY THE ESKIMOS
MATURE EARLY

Heat of Igloos Responsible,
Says Explorer Stefansson.

It has generally been supposed that among the peoples of the earth the age of maturity comes earliest in the tropics, and increases gradually as one goes northward through the temperate and eventually into the Polar zone. It has been presumed that a similar condition would be found in going south from the Equator toward the Southern Pole.

If the age of maturity increases with fair regularity as one goes north through Europe from Sicily to Lapland, it would seem reasonable that this has a direct connection with the decrease in temperature, and the assumption has accordingly been made. But in North America this rule, if it be a rule, has a striking exception, writes Viljalmar Stefansson in the Journal of the American Medical Association. It is not rare among Eskimo women that they have their first child at the age of twelve; and children born before the mothers were eleven have been recorded in places where the age of the mother can be in no doubt because of the fact that her birth had been recorded by a resident missionary.

It is a curious thing that during twelve years of association with the Eskimos, during which time I have spoken and written a great deal about their manner of life, it never occurred to me until some two or three months ago that their early maturity is strictly in accord with the supposition that the hotter the environment the earlier the maturity.

For to all intents and purposes the typical Eskimo in the country known to me lives under tropical or sub-tropical conditions. During the winter of 1906-1907 recorded the estimate that the average temperature within doors of the Eskimo house in which I lived at the mouth of the Mackenzie River was a good deal above 80 F., and frequently rose to 90 F. From the point of view of those who spent most of the winter indoors in that house, it was a matter of no consequence that the temperature was perhaps 40 or 50 degrees below zero outdoors when the outdoor air seldom came in contact with their bodies. Even when they go out, this cold air does not have a chance to come in contact with the body except for the limited area of the face.

When an Eskimo is well dressed his two layers of fur clothing imprison the body heat so effectively that the air in actual contact with his skin, is always at the temperature of a tropical summer. It is true, therefore, that while an Eskimo is indoors his entire body is exposed to a local climate as warm as that of Sicily, and when he is outdoors he carries that climate about with him inside his clothes and applicable to 90 or 95 per cent. of his body area.

Mr. Stefansson says that the Indians have no such means of protection from the cold, and that therefore the more northerly of these mature late.

FRENCH VIEW.

Paris, Oct. 29.—French diplomatic representatives in London have been instructed by the government to lay before the British government the French point of view concerning the decision of the British government to renounce the right of confiscation of German property in the United Kingdom, according to newspapers here.

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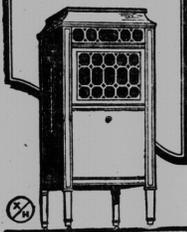
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INSTITUTE OF
TEACHERS CLOSED

Moncton, Oct. 29.—United Westmorland Albert counties teachers' institute closed this afternoon. Westmorland will meet next year at Moncton, while the selection of place for Albert was left to the executive. The following officers were elected: Westmorland: President, H. B. Steeves, Shediac; vice-president, Miss Rita Jalliet, Memramcook; secretary-treasurer, Wm. H. Irving, Moncton, re-elected; additional members of executive, Mr. Haines, Sackville, and Miss Maggie Gaynor, Salisbury, Albert county; President, Chester, Eggleston; vice-president, Miss Margaret Barbour, Riverside; secretary-treasurer, Miss Ina Steeves, Hillsboro; additional members of executive, Miss Katherine MacNaughton, Hopewell Hill, and Miss Berthenia O'Connor, Harvey. Among resolutions passed were regrets at deaths of S. W. Irons, Miss Hennessy and Miss MacLeod, and congratulations to W. H. Irving on having just received his M. A. degree from Oxford University, and Dr. Oulton of

TO OTHER HOSPITALS

Moncton, on his recent LL. D. degree from Mount Allison University. Miss Hattie Blanche, a graduate of the St. John General Public Hospital, who has been in charge of one of the floors in that institution, will leave this evening to assume a responsible position in the Houlton (Me.) hospital. Miss Belle B. Howe, who for the last four years has had charge of the surgical outdoor department in the General Public Hospital here, will leave next Wednesday for New York, to accept the position of night supervisor of the New York Hospital.

BOY SCOUT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the local Boy Scouts' Association was held last evening in their rooms, Prince William street. The election of officers took place and resulted in the retention of the old officials. Colonel Murray MacLaren is again honorary president; A. C. Skelton, president; W. H. Harrison, J. H. Kimball and E. H. Turnbull, vice-presidents; Guy Short, local commissioner. No other business of importance was brought up but a general discussion took place on the work for next year.

Street car No. 90, on the Prince William street route, caught fire about 6 o'clock last evening in Duke street, between Charlotte and Sydney. The firemen from No. 1 Engine House were

called and subdued the blaze with chemicals. The cause was probably owing to a short circuit. An occurrence of like nature took place a few weeks ago when a car at the head of King street burst out in flames.

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