

5. The Indian infant mortality rate, the crude mortality rate and the death rate from tuberculosis are many times higher than in the white population. All these conditions present a national problem in health and welfare far in excess of the numerical proportion of the Indian to the white population.

6. In common with the results of studies done in many parts of the world, poor nutrition has been found in a population group with excessively high morbidity and mortality rates.

7. It is not unlikely that many characteristics, such as shiftlessness, indolence, improvidence and inertia, so long regarded as inherent or hereditary traits in the Indians race, may, at the root, be really the manifestations of malnutrition. Furthermore, it is probable that the Indians' great susceptibility to many diseases, paramount among which is tuberculosis, may be attributable among other causes to their high degree of malnutrition arising from lack of proper foods.

ADDENDUM

While this paper was in press the attention of the authors was directed to a monograph "C-Hypovitaminose" by Johns. Hagtvet, Norway, in which the author found that the average vitamin C food supply in Northern Norway was 5, 10 to 15 mgm. of ascorbic acid daily. He reports the marked prevalence of chronic gingivitis, and states, "This under-feeding with respect to vitamin C seems to have as a regular consequence chronic gingivitis, marginal osteitis and a tendency towards spontaneous bleedings."

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RÉSUMÉ

400 Indiens du nord du Manitoba ont été observés au double point de vue de leurs habitudes alimentaires et de leur état général. Les déficiences vitaminiques sont la règle, notamment, les déficiences en vitamines A, B₂ et C. Les altérations de leurs conjonctives, de leur cornée et de leurs gencives traduisent assez nettement les carences précitées. La mortalité infantile est très élevée, notamment, la mortalité due à la tuberculose. L'indolence, l'inertie et l'apathie de ces sujets n'est pas un trait racial, — comme on l'a cru trop longtemps, — mais provient plutôt de troubles profonds dus à une mauvaise alimentation; cette même étiologie est également à la base de leur manque de résistance à l'égard des infections, et plus particulièrement de la tuberculose.

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