

to mercury internally, and externally in the form of black wash. Iodide of potassium was also used. The effects of the disease itself were not so fearful as those of ordinary syphilis, and the mouth excrescence was amenable to nitrate of silver, applied in the solid form. Locally it goes by the name of the Nelson River complaint, and was very prevalent there at one time. Only in generations far back, say over 100 years, could these Indians possibly have had exposure to syphilitic taint, as they were not in contact with either the Red River settlement or York, and the true disease was stated not to exist in those days in either of the two places. Syphilis, however, is said to have been a long time in the McKenzie River district, whither it was conveyed by the various Arctic expeditions, but the Indians of that region had no contact with those of the Nelson River, and, as far as I could learn, the symptoms of the McKenzie River disorder were those of true syphilis. Cases are now and again being heard of from Norway House, which, I fear, cannot be associated with pre-historic times, but have, from all accounts, the usual first-born energy of unadulterated syphilis, and this disease is conscientiously developed in its several forms. At all events, I have given it the benefit of any existing doubt, and treated it accordingly.

It may not be uninteresting to trace briefly the etiology of Sivvens, together with one or two somewhat analagous diseases, associating them (as I think they ought to be associated) with unrecognized forms of syphilis, although I am fully aware that I am now touching upon very debateable ground. In the first place, towards the end of the 17th century, Sivvens or Sibbens was very prevalent in the north of Scotland, and was supposed to have been introduced by Charles the Second's troops in their campaigns. Bearing upon this, I may add that for the last 200 years the European employés of the Hudson's Bay Company are year by year engaged from the north of Scotland. Again, in the 18th century, it became very prevalent in the north of Scotland, and, it may be noticed, it became equally prevalent among the Nelson River Indians about the same time. This may be only a coincidence, but it is a suggestive one. Again,