

the winter months when other food is scarce, and this I am inclined to think was the cause of the illness of several children, all of whom were suffering great pain when little else was being eaten.

Cooked food is only partaken of as a change, though it might become more generally used if fuel was plentiful. It was very amusing to see them with old fruit cans boiling small pieces of seal or other meat over a fire of small weeds. It was usually eaten half cooked and thickly coated with ashes.

Apparently only two regular meals are eaten, one upon first rising in the morning and one just before retiring. At these meals they might be seen each with a knife of some kind sitting around a seal with their share, taking first a piece of lean and then a piece of fat as we would eat bread and cheese, and, as might be supposed, their faces did not present a very pretty appearance after these meals.

Much has been said of the Eskimo's improvidence and undoubtedly, like most civilized beings, when food is plentiful they do eat more than usual thereby becoming lazier and less inclined to hunt; but it may be said for the credit of those in Hudson's Strait, excepting a few, they would hunt and kill at almost any time, and not so much as a handful of food was ever wasted.

Of original genius they seemed to possess little for although many of their appliances for hunting and trapping are ingeniously made, these have all been copied from those used by the same race, we may say, centuries ago, and in proof of this statement it may be added that where simple repairs were needed in traps and other implements, and where parts of these had been lost they were quite incapable of employing other means to make them of service until shown by my men or myself.

A marked difference is noticed in the quality of all mechanical work done by the Eskimo of the north and south shores of the Strait, especially in clothes by the women, and hunting implements and carved work made by the men, those on the north shore doing far the neatest and best work. This may be owing to the great demand for these articles by the men of the whalers who are constantly bartering with them; while those to the southward never have a chance of doing so, and are content with more roughly made articles for their own use.