

are very poor ; the latter are principally fishermen, and are fairly comfortable. The physical characteristics of the coast tribes are very uniform, which is probably due to the frequent inter-marriage between the various tribes. This has had a distinct effect upon the various languages, words borrowed from either being used by all. Many tribes of that district deform the heads of their children. In the northern part of Vancouver Island the natives use circular bandages, which give the head an extraordinary length. Further south a strong pressure is exerted on the crown of the head ; a bandage is laid around it immediately behind the coronal suture, and a soft cushion is used for pressing down the forehead. The Flat-heads compress forehead and occiput, by means of a board and hard cushions. Amongst some of the tribes a custom prevails of perforating the lower lip of the females, which, as they increase with age, gives a peculiarly repulsive appearance, and pendants weigh down the lip. Ear-rings and anklets are also worn. Chiefs' daughters, amongst some of the tribes, have their incisors ground down to the gums by chewing a pebble of jute, the row of teeth thus assuming an arched form. Tattooing is practiced amongst the Haidas and some adjacent families, and scars at intervals on the body are an ornament of the Nootka Sound Indians. Mr. Horatio Hale, who has written very carefully an article on the Pacific coast Indians, says : " I do not venture to describe any physical features as characteristics of one tribe or the other." He says the possibility of distinguishing individuals belonging to various tribes is principally due to the variety of artificial deformations. The fact that in honor of the arrival of friends the house is swept and strewn with sand, and that the natives bathe, shows that cleanliness is appreciated. The Indian of that region, moreover, takes repeated baths before praying, " that he may be of agreeable smell to the Deity." Playing is not only considered undignified, but as actually bad ;