

berries, and when moose and berries were plentiful he made pemmican, which was used in winter or when game was scarce. The basis of his diet was fish or meat. It was "ponasked", or toasted over the coals. Much of it was eaten raw. He drank the blood of the moose. He regarded the stomach and intestines as a delicacy. All was eaten, often including the stomach contents, and none was wasted.

Yet the Indian knew scurvy. It was the Indian who saved Jacques Cartier's expedition to Canada, giving them a tea made of spruce needles, and curing their scurvy. Civilization has changed all that. "Indian medicine" while essentially harmless had many good points. The church has relegated it to the realm of witchcraft, so that even such a simple thing as the brewing of spruce needles has disappeared. Settlements have sprung up, being the places for the women and the lazy to congregate. The trapper and hunter go out, and come back to the settlement where they live on "store goods". Civilization has taught them many things, but it has not taught them to buy wisely. The trader handles such goods as sell well, are easily transported, and will stand frost. The Indian may well be compared to persons of low economic status in the southern United States. They have their sow belly and grits. The Cree Indian has his salt pork and white flour. I saw an Indian child die of scurvy within 100 yards of a trading post, and yet not an orange or a tin of tomatoes could be bought there.

Our patient's husband was one of the shiftless; he was neither trapper, hunter nor fisherman. He existed on odd jobs in the settlement. To make matters worse, some well-meaning individuals had helped him to get a cow, a curse in disguise. When he should have been out fishing or working in the summer, he always had the excuse that he had to stay home and cut hay. The animal was never fed enough to give any quantity of milk. Is it any wonder that his wife suffered from malnutrition?

The fact that the patient had been nursing her baby for the past three months, is in line with the observation that pregnancy and lactation bring about acute exacerbations of the deficiency states.

SUMMARY

A case of scurvy has been presented, with coloured photographs, showing typical haemorrhagic lesions of the gums and legs. Pictures taken before and after therapy are shown. Bleeding and swollen gums were noted at the same time as petechiae and ecchymoses. The case responded to vitamin C therapy. The deficiency state appeared to have been exacerbated by pregnancy.