

What I have described are routine flights or trips. I never go out with the intention of doing anything very much, as there is no one at any place I visit, who can nurse a sick person. Such things as a bad burn; a broken limb; a bad case of pneumonia; a case of tuberculosis; a tuberculous joint, etc.; I bring or send back to the hospital. The other day I had word of an Indian getting struck in the eye with a stick while chopping wood. He was 200 miles away. I sent a plane for him, and he was brought in. The eye was punctured; the iris prolapsed; vitreous lost; and the globe partially collapsed. I removed the eye. I take out an eye about once a year.

Every summer in company with the Indian Agent, I visit all the reserves in the agency. While the Agent pays treaty, I carry on a medical practice. I make it my first duty to inoculate and vaccinate everyone in the district. Last year I made up diphtheria toxoid, pertussis vaccine, and typhoid vaccine. Every man, woman, and child got 2 c.c. of this. I had some terrific reactions, and doubt if I will ever use it again. However, I believe it did some good, as we have had no diphtheria, and while other places have had whooping cough epidemics there have been no deaths except in a couple of children born after I had been around, and thus were not inoculated. My next job is pulling teeth, and there are always a lot of these. After that I do what the people want, while there is time. Every place we go I generally have an obstetrical case. Indeed I have had my most difficult cases on treaty trip, where I have had to work under the poorest conditions. Last summer, I had a frank breach with extended legs and arms, in a dirty old tent with my patient lying on the ground. It is hard on the back, and the only reward is seeing the little toddler next treaty time. A treaty trip takes a month. We see some 4,000 Indians. We keep the plane with us all the time, and if need arises, I return home. I am in constant touch with my hospital by radio. Generally I have to return home once or twice during the course of the trip, either to take a patient to the hospital, or to see about some complication that arises in a patient already in hospital.

Still, the big problem is transportation, and communication. Last week I sent a plane to bring in a patient who was vomiting, and had pain in the abdomen. I was a couple of days getting the wire in the first place, and a couple of days before I could get a plane. The man was dead when the plane called for him. When the war is over, we hope to have better service.

I see a fair number of fractures. In fact I seem always to have a fracture under treatment. At the present I have a hip, a knee, a lumbar spine, and a finger, all in casts. On some I have done resections. I believe the Indian withstands surgery as well as anyone if he is first built up. Axe cuts, gun shot wounds, and frost bites, constitute an important part of this type of practice.

One more trip, and that should be enough. In May I travelled, over to Cross Lake by canoe. Ours was the first canoe down the river that spring. There was still ice along the shore. We arrived at Cross Lake in the evening, and immediately a man approached to say his baby was sick with a sore throat. Examination showed a case of diphtheria, far advanced, and a second just starting in another baby in the same house. There were three or four families living in a single roomed house. Obviously something had to be done at once. I could go home for antitoxin, but I could not get cultures done at home at that time, so I decided the best thing was to go out by canoe to the railroad and send throat swabs to Winnipeg, and at the same time, try to get antitoxin. A plane was badly needed this time, but Cross Lake had no radio service. I told my canoeman to be ready to leave at daylight in the morning, which at that time of year comes at 3.30 a.m. We got away at 4 o'clock. At 7 o'clock that night I was still 10 miles from the Hudson Bay Railway, but that 10 miles was over a muskeg portage, no road, just muskeg, which had thawed out. I set off with three Indians. Never will I forget that night. Every step you sank