

seemed to me to average well with, if not surpass, the Caucasian race, at least in weight. They were located in and around the mouth of Back's Great Fish River, living off seals that there abound, and from which diet they get their tribal name—the Netschilluk, or seal-eaters. Those of the west coast of Greenland, from their accessibility to travelers, have been described the most, and being below even the average height of the Eskimo as a whole race, our general notions have been derived too much from this source. The Eskimo of Alaska, or such as I saw of them, are larger framed than those of Hudson's Bay, Hudson's Strait or Greenland, and yet I do not think they will compare in this particular with the intermediate Netschilluk.

Although the Eskimo are smaller than the white races, I think they will compare very favorably with them in bodily strength, which means, of course, for equal weights they are more muscular. When returning from my sledge journey to King William's Land in the good muscular condition resulting from a walk of over 3,000 miles, and even then weighing 219 pounds, I do not think I had the strength of one of my Eskimo sledgemen, Toolooah by name, who weighed but 20 or 25 pounds over half as much. This was evidenced by our respective handlings of the loaded sledge in "tight pinches," and giving full allowance to him for greater experience in such matters, and amply acknowledging that many assumed feats of strength have more of dexterity and practice in them than that which they are claimed to prove.

When we started on our northern trip Toolooah's sledge had a weight of over 3,000 pounds on it, hauled by nineteen fine dogs, and when he was at its head, with a tight grip in the seal-thong lashings, he would readily sway the head of the vehicle backwards and forwards as it went over snow where occasional projecting stones made it dangerous for the shoe-runners unless quickly and promptly avoided by good guidance. I must say that he was about the average in strength of his own race. Their constant out-door life, winter and summer, doing the hardest work in the healthiest of

climates, is probably sufficient to account for their great muscular development.

Their universal clothing is made from the skin of the reindeer, which animal is fortunately abundant in their land, as a usual thing, for its peculiar fur is undoubtedly the warmest in the world for the same amount of weight. There are often many variations in the trimmings made of other furs, as that of the polar bear, musk ox, Arctic fox, wolverine, or even the downy breasts of the eider-duck, dovekie, or auk, and in some instances they replace the reindeer fur largely; but among the bands of central Eskimo, where the most of my northern travels were cast, the reindeer was the only fur used to warm them as covering day or night, for it was equally used as bedding or clothing, while the flesh of the animal gave them their most delicious meat. Their palates are not very exacting, however, and I doubt if



ESKIMO HEAD.

one-third the reindeer that are now slain would be killed were meat the only object in view, and not the clothing, without which their country would be almost uninhabitable, and with which they can spend the winter far more comfortably than can the savages of so-called temperate regions with their deficient appliances.

It is about equally difficult for the Eskimo hunter to secure a walrus or a reindeer, and as the former will give about a ton of meat, and the latter only about one-tenth as much, it is clear why the walrus would be selected if only the meat and its palatability were concerned.