

flowers of these plants. They closely resemble the Three Graces—and are supposed to reside in the Pleiades. "The Thunderer" has also three male "assistants" who are his ministers.

22. Have you found any traces of these ideas?

The Great Father in the Pleiades is supposed to assume the form of a huge bird, an eagle, or condor, or white owl, which is called "the thunder bird."

23. Have you met with this idea?

THE CROSS, THE TRIANGLE, AND THE SEVEN STARS.

Among almost all savages the cross (either the greek cross +, or the tan cross, T) is a sacred symbol, and is apparently connected with the Pleiades, and with rain, also with healing, as a talisman. Many tribes mark objects with a red cross, their clothes, or houses, or canoes. Sometimes this symbol of healing is a staff, or perhaps the rattle of the medicine man.

24.—Is there any trace of this prehistoric cross, or of this staff among your tribes, and do they connect them with the Pleiades, or with rain, or the gift of corn to man, or with healing?

Have they any symbol like the triangle, and is it connected with the Deity, or with the stars in the head of Taurus? Are seven stars a symbol or ornament among them?

INITIATIONS AND MEDICINE MEN.

There is reason to believe that among some tribes at the initiation of young warriors, they believe that the Pleiades lend them strength, and endurance in their ordeal, and come to tell them in dreams what their totem shall be, and what their new name shall be?

25.—Are there any trace of these ideas? How many stages of initiation are there? Among most savages there are three.

26.—Are the medicine men initiated, and how many stages of such initiation are there?

Do the medicine men connect their ordeals in any way with the great medicine man in the Pleiades, or with the Nos. 3, 5 or 7?

If this is the case, it may be difficult to get them to tell you anything on this point, unless they are pressed closely. Have any tribes known to you any passes or signs only known to the initiated?

In constructing the wigwam of the medicine man among some Canadian Indians the bark of seven different trees is used. Among the Florida Indians the inner bark of seven different trees is used as fuel for lighting the sacred fire—as in India in the rites of Agni the words are used "fire! seven are thy fuels, seven are thy tongues, seven are thy sages, seven ways do seven worship thee, &c."

Among some Canadian tribes the vapour bath is heated with seven stones.

27.—Have you found among your Indians any traces of these ideas?

There is a species of divination by a drum, in beating which the medicine men use words of which they do not understand the meaning.

28.—Have you met with this?

REPLIES.

Please keep these queries, and send (by post

if possible in one month from receipt, such replies as you are able to supply, numbering each according to the number of the questions to which it refers.

By the 1st of November, it is possible further information may be obtained by you, which could be forwarded in the same manner. The fullest particulars will be acceptable, for even though apparent trifles may seem unworthy of attention, they become of importance when traced in many countries and among various races. Any information akin to that asked for, though not included in these queries, would be much valued, and will be duly acknowledged, should they be used in any work bearing on the customs and traditions of our Indians.

For Answers see ^{no.} 2, 215-1 J.W. McKay.