

THE INDIAN AND THE INDIAN MEDICINE MAN.

By J. F. W. ROSS, M.D., TORONTO.

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The Indian Chief, Tecumseth, it has been said, received the stamp of greatness from the hand of nature. Had his lot been cast in a different sphere he would have shone as one of the most distinguished of men. He was a powerful man, with the soul of a hero. There was an uncommon dignity in his countenance and manners. After death, though he wore no insignia of office, he was easily discovered from among the rest of the slain. Though six feet high, he was perfectly proportioned. Such a type of man is but one among many, and there were many other Indians like him. After the red man came into contact with the white he degenerated. To peaceful communities came the fur trade, and a hell was soon established. The introduction of alcohol, and its attendant evils, made the Indian what he is to-day, but, nevertheless, we are able to look back and admire what existed before the fall.

The vindictive blood of the savage runs in the veins of many of the people of this continent who do not know it. It is difficult to estimate the effect that this mixture has had on the progress of American and Canadian affairs.

The skin of the Indian was dark, of a reddish hue, and thinner than that of the white man. The surface was very smooth and lines and indentations regular. It has been stated that the poison oak and the poison ivy did not affect the skin of the Indian; in fact, they are said to have used the stem of the poison oak for making baskets. The eyes are black and deep set, the nose large and aquiline. The hair of many was black, but there were many of both sexes, ranging from infancy to old age, with hair of a bright silvery grey. Sometimes the hair was almost white. The beard, as a rule, was deficient.

The blanket was the chief article of dress. Red blankets were used by the young and green ones by the aged. Leggings were worn by both men and women, and, as a consequence, were differently shaped. The blankets and the mantelettes used by the women generally lasted about a year.

Many of the whites assumed the garb of the Indian. We read that when Henry was rescued from death at the taking of Fort Michilimackinac, he was forced to adopt the garb of an Indian. His foster father, who had taken him under his protection, cut off his hair and shaved his head, with the exception