

projecting from the face about a quarter of an inch. The younger women have not even this remnant of the old custom.

The piercing of the lip was the occasion of a ceremony and giving away of property. During the operation the aunt of the child must hold her. The shape of the Haida lip-piece or *stai-e* was oval. Among the Tshimsians it was more elongated, and with the Stickeen women nearly circular. It was also formerly the custom to pierce the ears in several places. Three perforations in each ear were usual among common people, but chiefs or those of importance had five or six. These held little ornaments formed of plates of haliotis shell backed with thin sheet copper, or the small sharp teeth of the fin-whale. This custom obtains also among the Tshimsians and Stickeen Indians, and the Chiefs Callicum and Maquilla of Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island, are represented with the same adornment in Meares' engraving of them.

The septum of the nose is generally perforated in both males and females, and was formerly made to sustain a pendant of haliotis shell or a silver ring, though it is not now used in this way. No process of distortion of the head or other parts of the body is practised among the Haidas.

Food.

Like most of the tribes of the coast, the Haidas live principally on fish. The halibut and salmon are chiefly depended on. A complete list of the articles used by them as food would, however, indeed be a long one, as few organic substances not absolutely indigestible would be omitted.

The halibut fishery is systematically pursued, and the main villages are so situated as to be within easy reach of the banks along the open coast on which the fish abounds. The halibut is found in great numbers in all suitable localities from Cape Flattery northward, but is perhaps nowhere finer, more abundant and more easily caught than in the vicinity of the Queen Charlotte Islands. It may be taken in most of the waters at almost any season, though more numerous on certain banks at times well known to the Indians. About Skidegate, however, it is only caught in large numbers during a few months in the spring and early summer. When the fish are most plentiful the Haidas take them in large quantities, fishing with hook and line from their canoes, which are anchored by stones attached to cedar-bark ropes of sufficient length. They still employ either a wooden hook armed with an iron—formerly bone—barb, or a peculiarly curved iron hook of their own manufacture, in preference to the ordinary fish-hook. These implements are described with others in treating of the arts of the Haidas.

The halibut brought to the shore are handed over by the men to the