

"As soon as a dog falls on a fresh track of the racoon, he gives notice by a cry, and immediately pursues. His barking enables the hunter to follow. The racoon, which travels slowly, and is soon overtaken, makes for a tree, on which he remains till shot.

"After the falling of the snow, nothing more is necessary, for taking of the racoon, than to follow the track of his feet. In this season, he seldom leaves his habitation; and he never lays up any food. I have found six at a time, in the hollow of one tree, lying upon each other, and nearly in a torpid state. In more than one instance, I have ascertained that they have lived six weeks without food. The mouse is their principal prey."

Seeing in all ages and in every country man is liable to disease and accident; it may naturally be expected that the practice of the healing art, will be equally antient and extensive with the cause which calls for it. This we find to be the case from the following remarks of our writer at once evincive of the above facts and at the same time displaying the notions of the medical science entertained by these Indians.

"While in the bay, my guardian's daughter-in-law was taken in labour, of her first child. She was immediately removed out of the common lodge; and a small one, for her separate accomodation, was begun and finished by the women less than half an hour.

"The next morning, we heard that she was very ill, and the family began to be much alarmed on her account; the more so, no doubt, because cases of difficult labour are very rare among the Indian women. In this distress, Wawatam requested me to accompany him into the woods; and on our way informed me, that if he could find a snake, he should soon secure relief to his daughter-in-law.

"On reaching some wet ground, we speedily obtained the object of our search, in a small snake, of the kind called the garter-snake.—Wawatam seized it by the neck; and, holding it fast, while it coiled itself round his arm, he cut off its head, catching the blood in a cup that he had brought with him. This done he threw away the snake and carried home the blood, which he mixed with a quantity of water. Of this mixture, he administered at first one table-spoonful, and shortly after a second. Within an hour, the patient was safely delivered of a fine child; and Wawatam subsequently declared that the remedy, to which he had resorted, was one that never failed.

"On the next day, we left the Bay of Boutchitaouy; and the young mother, in high spirits, assisted in loading the canoe, barefooted, and knee-deep in the water.

"The medical information, the diseases and the remedies of the Indians, often engaged my curiosity, during the period through which I was familiar with these nations; and I shall take this occasion to introduce a few particulars, connected with their history.

"The Indians are in general free from disorders; and an instance of their being subject to dropsy, gout, or stone, never came within my knowledge. Inflammations of the lung are among their most ordinary complaints, and rheumatism still more so, especially with the aged.—