

birds are laid under contribution, and salmon trout and fish of various kinds are taken. In this way part of a winter stock of provisions is secured, and not a little is required, as the Eskimos, being consumers of animal food only, eat an immense quantity. In the autumn the berries of the *Empetrum nigrum*, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, *Vitis-Idæa*, *Rubus Chamaemorus* and *Arcticus*, and a few other arctic fruit-bearing plants are eaten, and the half digested lichens in the paunch of the reindeer are considered to be a treat; but in other seasons these people never taste vegetables, and even in the summer animal food alone is deemed essential. Carbon is supplied to the system by the use of much oil and fat in the diet, and draughts of blood from a newly-killed animal are considered as contributing greatly to preserve the hunter in health. No part of the entrails is rejected as unfit for food, little cleanliness is shown in the preparation of the intestines, and when they are rendered crisp by frost they are eaten as delicacies without cooking.

In the construction of their dwellings the Eskimo have to vary the materials and shape according to their location in the widely extended area which they occupy. When drift-wood is to be found they make free use of it, as well as of sods and willows for wattling: on boulder-strewn coasts they have to adapt themselves to their building material, and it is only when neither are available, or when the hunt has detained them in a new location till too late to use either, that the snow house is built, so that the following description of their methods must be understood as only applying to certain portions of the coast they frequent:

In their thickest and most permanent settlements the houses are about twelve feet wide and from twenty-five to seventy feet long, according to the number of families who are to occupy them, and just high enough to allow a man to stand upright. These permanent buildings are not built underground, as is often supposed, but on rising ground, and, if possible, on a steep rock, that the snow water may run off the better. The walls are constructed of large stones six feet wide, with layers of sod and earth between, and on these walls they lay the beam, which is the length of the house, and if one is not long enough they splice two, three or four together with leather cords and support them by posts. They throw poles and smaller timber across, cover them with wattling and sods, and spread fine earth over the whole. This roof stands as long as frost continues, but in the summer it is washed in by the rain and must be repaired, together with the walls, in the autumn. As they derive their support from the sea, they never build at any distance from it, and the entrances of their houses face the shore. They have neither doors nor chimneys, but in place of both there is an arched entrance built of earth and stone, twenty-five or thirty feet long, and so low, particularly at the extremities, that it is necessary not only to stoop, but almost to creep through the passage. This long tunnel serves admirably to keep out the wind and snow, and the heavy air (there is no smoke) finds egress through it. The walls are hung on the inside with the skin coverings of old tents and boats, fastened with nails of seal bones, by which means the moisture is kept out; the roof is often covered on the outside with the same materials. Half the area from the centre of the house to the back wall is occupied by a floor or platform about a foot high, covered with skins. This platform is divided into several compartments by means of skins stretched from the pillars which support the roof to the wall. From three to ten families occupy one house, and each family has a compartment. There they sleep wrapped in skins, and there they sit in the day time, the men usually in front sitting on the edge of the platform, and the women sitting behind

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