

Iroquois Foods and Food Preparation.

INTRODUCTION.

Iroquois foods and the customs connected therewith have been the subjects from time to time of ethnological investigation. In most instances, however, such investigations have been concerned with special phases or divisions of the subject, so that a comprehensive treatment of the subject would seem useful. The idea of the author has been, for the greater part, to deal with present-day Iroquois customs, or with those which have been practised within the memory of the older people now living on the reservations, making such references to the literature and archæology of the subject as may be required to form a connected account.

Among the more recent papers or monographs to which the writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness are the bulletin by A. C. Parker on "Iroquois uses of maize and other food plants" and M. R. Harrington's "Some Seneca corn foods and their preparation." Of these, the bulletin by Parker is somewhat the more comprehensive. Both are interesting and cover the field more or less thoroughly, with perhaps special reference to the New York State Iroquois.

In extenuation of having gone over some of the ground already covered by previous workers the author wishes to state that this was necessitated in the making of more extensive and intensive inquiries into practically all divisions of the subject, as well as in the fixing of a starting-point for a number of additional topics. There is also to be considered the value of corroborative evidence as to distribution and other facts connected with the customs involved.

The subject matter as a whole is the result of personal investigations conducted by the writer during the years 1912-1915 among the Iroquois of Ontario, Quebec, and New York state, covering a total of about twelve months' research, and will form one of a