

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE RELATION
OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO
HIGHER EDUCATION

Compiled by
RAYMOND LOWREY WALKLEY



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SECTION 3.—REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS.

REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE ESKIMO VILLAGES ON THE ARCTIC COAST.

By EMIL KRULISH, passed assistant surgeon, United States Public-Health Service.

I accompanied the revenue cutter *Bear* on her annual Arctic cruise and made a general inspection of the natives and conditions in the Eskimo villages along the coast. Owing to the brevity of the stops at each village, time did not permit me to personally examine each and every native; I usually had time to examine only those who presented themselves for treatment, and thus many cases of incipient tuberculosis and other minor diseases presumably escaped my attention. The settlements visited were Kotzebue, Kivalina, Point Hope, Icy Cape, Wainwright, and Barrow.

Settlements.—The settlements are necessarily located on the coast, for the natives derive the greater portion of their livelihood from the sea. The sanitary conditions of the premises vary in the different communities. These conditions, though unsightly and apparently insanitary, are, however, not the direct cause of disease in Alaska. It is in the crowded, overheated, unventilated, and insanitary homes that the principal danger of contagion exists, and where diseases are usually contracted.

In those villages in which the premises are clean, the conditions within the homes are more sanitary and the people healthier; thus I found the natives at Point Hope to be in the best condition physically, while at Barrow the number diseased was the greatest.

Natives.—The Eskimos along the Arctic coast usually have an abundant supply of native foods and furs at their disposal, and therefore are perhaps in better circumstances than other natives of Alaska. While their homes and mode of living are below the standard of the whites, they are far ahead of the Eskimos of the Siberian coast.

Dwellings.—The Arctic coast is a timberless country; the natives therefore depend on driftwood to a large extent for their fuel supply and building material. Coal is plentiful in this section of Alaska, but the mines are inconveniently situated to the villages, and the natives are not prepared at present to utilize this fuel in their homes. Seal oil lamps are also used to some extent for heating purposes. The igloos are usually small in size, which necessarily results in overcrowding, and every crevice which might admit air is carefully sealed during the long, cold winter months in order to maintain a comfortable temperature within.

Disposal of refuse.—With two exceptions, the premises in the villages were fairly clean and sanitary. During the summer garbage and refuse is thrown into the sea, while in winter it accumulates near the igloos and is disposed of in the spring. Under the direction of the teacher a general "clean-up" of the village occurs. The thoroughness of this procedure is in direct proportion to the energy and influence of the teachers in the respective villages. Kivalina was the only settlement at which I saw privies. Urine is preserved in vessels and is used in tanning skins; its use as a substitute for soap is being discontinued. The dead are buried; formerly the bodies were laid to rest upon elevated platforms.

Foods.—The principal food supply of the northern section of the coast is the whale, seal, and walrus; fish are scarce. The meat is well preserved in cellars dug in the perpetually frozen soil.

country. The natives had been accustomed to put up the berries in oil. Not many of them do so since they have acquired a taste for the canned fruits they can get in the stores. Only a few, however, understand the methods of home canning; consequently they picked only what they desired fresh for immediate use. We had the women bring the berries to the schoolhouse and taught them in groups; they furnished their own jars and sugar. They seemed much pleased as they took home the product of their industry. Some of these jams and jellies, we heard, proved too tempting to be put away to supply the winter table.

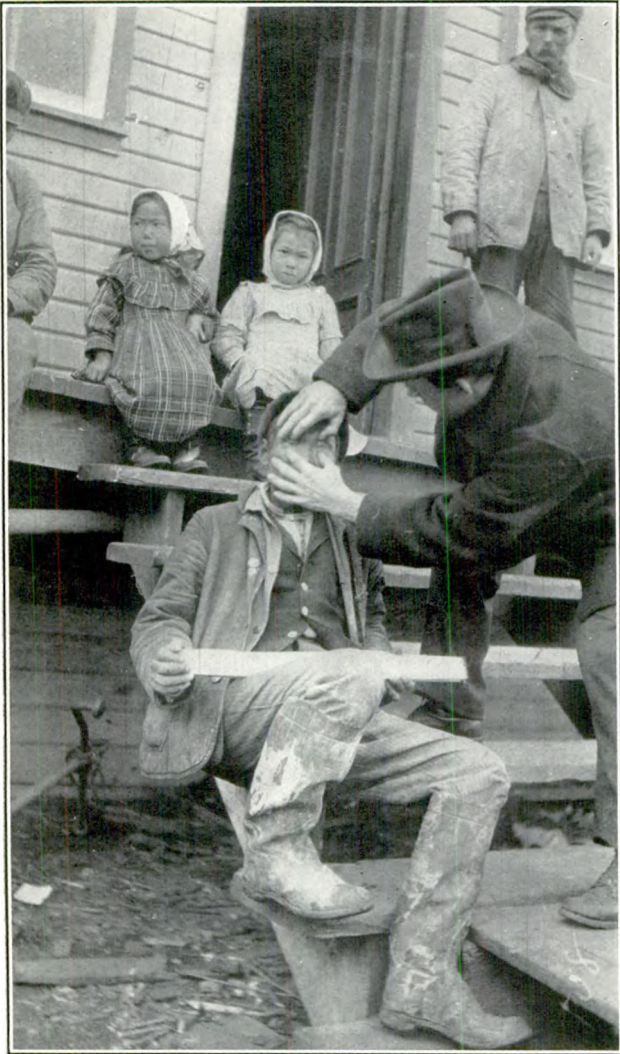
School work.—Throughout the year much attention has been given to problems in arithmetic arising out of their daily experiences, such as necessary calculations in connection with the handling of their furs, fish, and logs. Much interest and enthusiasm was shown. The men in the evening class were also exceedingly interested in this work in arithmetic. Some said, "That is just what we need." These evening classes were begun in January and continued through April. They consisted largely in thorough drill in the mastery of the "three Rs."

Laundry and bath.—The laundry and bath have been in constant use. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays the women and girls have had the use of the laundry for washing and ironing. Very few used to iron their clothes, but since Miss Patton engaged a laundress to come and give them special lessons in ironing quite a number take pride in their newly acquired accomplishment. On Thursdays the bath was used by the men, on Fridays by the women, and on Saturdays by the children—by the girls in the morning and by the boys in the afternoon. A large number of the children have formed regular bathing habits. After persistently repeated reminders they have acquired the habit of bringing with them their own towels, also a change of clothing.

Treatment of disease.—There has been little illness this year in the community. There have been a few light cases of measles. There was one reported case of diphtheria that came here from another village. The doctor had the case quarantined when brought here as a precautionary measure, but decided later it had not really been diphtheria. The natives have constantly come to us for relief for minor ailments. This spring each day at the schoolhouse we regularly lined up the anæmic children and gave them a tonic. One little girl of 11 is wasting away with tuberculosis. She likes to come to school, and we let her do so because we think she is better off here where our rooms are ventilated. There is no danger of contagion, because a hard and fast rule of this school has long been to use papers for the sputum which are burned in the stove.

Village sanitation.—When the snows were melted this spring we suggested to some natives, whose example we knew would have influence with others, that it was a good time to get the cleaning done around their houses. They accepted the suggestion and achieved excellent results. Sitka may now well be proud of the village streets. It is a pleasure to pass by and note their cleanliness and order.

Recommendation.—We would recommend that as new schools are built and old ones remodeled, open-air schoolrooms be provided, since a large percentage of the death rate among the natives is due to tuberculosis.



ONE OF THE PHYSICIANS ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION IN
A NATIVE VILLAGE.



A. CLINIC IN SCHOOL ROOM.

This illustrates the difficulties under which physicians and nurses work and emphasizes the urgent need for hospital facilities.



B. CLEANING ULCERS AND WOUNDS.

raise the flag and see that there was no smoking or chewing of tobacco on the school premises, also to see that there was no swearing or disorderly conduct. The children like this new organization very much indeed.

Sanitary work.—This year more time was devoted to sanitary work. Every other afternoon a different part of the village was visited; by so doing I could make the rounds of the whole village two to three times a week, instructing and urging the people to ventilate their houses, scrub their floors, collect the garbage in boxes or barrels, burn the rubbish, and throw the tin cans where the tide would carry them away. Most of the natives took kindly to these suggestions. Practically all washed their clothes and scrubbed their floors at least once a week, when it was not too cold. When spring set in most of them cleaned up around their houses and burned the rubbish: some dug little ditches as drains around their cabins. In a little village like this, where there are no sanitary regulations, and where cattle, hogs, dogs, and chickens run at will over the town, the sanitary problem is a very difficult one.

Health.—There has been considerable sickness in the village. Most of it consisted of bad colds, coughs, toothache, earache, sore throat, and swollen glands. There are several cases of trachoma in the village; two of these were acute, and had it not been for the fact that Dr. Schaleben was able to spend some time here during the winter treating them, the result might have been loss of eyesight. All these cases have received daily treatment ever since, according to the doctor's instructions. In fact, we make it a point to administer all medicines ourselves, so far as possible, either in the schoolhouse or at their homes; the native can hardly be relied upon to take medicines as instructed. We have had only three deaths this year. Two were very old men and one a middle-age woman. All died of tuberculosis.

General conditions.—The natives are very law-abiding. If let alone by the whites there would be very little, if any, drinking among them. The moral condition is in general very good.

During the winter there is nothing much for the natives to do here, as hunting and trapping have practically ceased in this vicinity. In the summer the natives work at the canneries and on the boats that run up and down Cook Inlet, while a great many are employed at the new coal mine just opened at Port Graham.

In closing, I wish to say that considering the primitiveness and childlike nature of the natives, the ignorance and indifference of many parents as to the value of an education for their children; the poverty of the people, together with their lack of foresight to provide for the future; the lack of laws to compel the children to attend the schools and to enforce sanitary regulations, the bad influence exerted on the weak, susceptible natives by a certain low, degraded, unscrupulous, and hungry class of whites, always found around native villages, the vastness of the rugged territory over which the native races are sprinkled, its inhospitable climate, its inadequate and costly means of transportation—considering all these difficulties it is indeed wonderful what the Bureau of Education is accomplishing for the natives of Alaska.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC SCHOOL AT SITKA.

By MISS CASSIA PATTON and MISS JEANNETTE H. WRIGHT, teachers.

Before the formal opening of the school last summer, and through the autumn, we arranged lessons for the native women and girls in the preparation and preservation for winter use of the abundant wild berry harvest of this

the teacher, went to the west side of the island and packed driftwood on their backs, a matter of 5 miles, to use in repairing the damage. For all this work, which lasted for a period of four weeks, the men did not expect or receive any remuneration except the meat previously mentioned. They are always ready to make any improvement the teachers may suggest with reference to the school or village.

Morals.—The morals of the natives are good. In the past the drinking of a local liquor had a bad effect. In the last two years there has not been any beeva made or drunk on this island. The moral conditions of this village are as nearly perfect as one could expect in a community of natives.

With the establishment of our own native cooperative store we intend to inaugurate a school republic and local government for the village in general.

In closing we should like to state the natives of Atka fully appreciate the benefits of their school and the assistance rendered by the Government to help them to rise to a position of self-support and self-respect. These natives are now beginning to show an interest in the Government of their country. This spring they were just as eager to learn who was the new President of the United States as the teachers themselves. Only three short years ago their only conception of government was that of a monarch of a foreign country. To-day they honor and respect the Stars and Stripes, and look to the Government for protection. The Government will be amply repaid for erecting the school at Atka by the self-respecting citizens it is making of the natives of Atka Island.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC SCHOOL AT SELDOVIA, IN SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA.

By P. H. NASH, teacher.

School work.—The morning sessions were devoted to reading, blackboard writing, arithmetic, and number work, while the afternoon sessions were given up to the industrial work, weaving, sewing, and basket making, varied with penmanship and drawing.

Owing to the fact that most of the children do not hear English spoken at home the pronunciation is very difficult for them, so considerable stress was laid upon reading and conversational exercises, and, considering the circumstances, they are doing remarkably well. All the work given to them in arithmetic and numbers is, of course, concrete and is related to their daily experiences. While slow at this work the result has been satisfactory. The children have always shown great interest in the drawing and sewing, while basket making and weaving being new to them this year they have taken more interest in that than in the other part of the industrial work.

School republic.—We organized a simple form of self-government in the school. The school room was called a city, each desk represented a home, and the aisles were the streets. The children elected their mayor, whose duty it was to give directions to the three councilmen, who were also chosen by the children. Each councilman had a separate duty to perform. One had charge of the homes and streets in the school city; he selected two deputies, a boy and a girl, who inspected the children's head, necks, ears, and clothing. The second councilman had charge of the school grounds; his assistants were boys, whose duty it was to keep the grounds clean around the schoolhouse. In winter they cleared away the snow and kept the walks open; in summer they removed all litter from the grounds. The third councilman acted as a sheriff; his duties were to