

peculiar to this group of islands, is what the natives call the "dthoke." It somewhat resembles the "yaws" of the West Indies, so common among the negroes. In adults who are afflicted with it, it assumes the form of secondary syphilis, and those unacquainted with the history of the disease, would unhesitatingly pronounce it a syphilitic taint. It usually attacks children from two to nine years of age, and, according to the natives' and white men's experience, none escape. Dr. Fox is of the same opinion; every child of ten years of age that fell under his observation, had had this disease, and in many cases, still had it.

Its first symptoms are fretfulness and inactivity on the part of the child; a swelling of the fingers and pains in the bones follow; these pains, which are rheumatic in character, continue at intervals throughout the disease, and are followed by small red spots in different parts of the body. These become round pustules, varying in size, and result in ulcers. After the eruption has appeared, the pains about the bones cease to be so general. Sometimes they disappear in fine weather, but return when it is damp and wet. In other cases they lose the fugitive character, but have a constant fixed pain over some bone, which is not relieved until the integuments inflame and carious bones find exit.

In the first attack there is much irritation, particularly at night, and more or less fever. This also disappears in most cases as soon as the eruption is out. The mouth, arms, and umbilicus, ulcerate around the whole circumference. The extent of the disease about these parts, Dr. Fox thinks is owing to the constant scratching of the child. Very large and extensive ulcers, at the same time, exist in various parts of the body, some having the appearance of a fungous mass. In adults the pericranium is oftener affected than in children, the bone is denuded, and frequently pieces of the table of the skull come away. In some cases the eruption does not appear, or after appearing immediately dries up. These cases are said to prove invariably fatal. Cases are by no means rare of the loss of the bones of the palate and nose. In several instances we observed the upper lip entirely gone, and the teeth and gums denuded. The females, in particular, are very often seen with deep cicatrices about the lips, so much so that in making inquiries relative to their customs, I was induced to ask Whippy, if making cicatrices in their lips was one of them. Dr. Fox imputes it to the dthoke, though Whippy refers it to tattooing: I am inclined to believe the former is the true cause. This disease varies in duration, from nine months to three years. The ulcerations continue longest on those parts of the body that are easily reached by the