

the great mortality among them, which has been before spoken of. They are also allowed to eat the most indigestible food, and from this and other causes are frequently seen covered with excoriations and ulcers, that are truly horrible.

A somewhat similar disease to that which we have observed in the other Polynesian islands, exists here under the name of the poupou; but it is by no means so violent, nor did we see any cases of so disgusting a character as those heretofore described: it is very much confined to the young.

In speaking of the native diseases, I cannot but think that many of them are brought about by the habit of eating their food so much fermented, until indeed at times it has become disagreeable to the smell: in this state, however, it is always preferred. I do not remember having observed this to be the case in any other of the Polynesian islands, as respects their vegetable diet.

Epidemics are not frequent, although a dreadful one prevailed in 1803 and 1804, which is said to have destroyed a large number of the inhabitants, and visited all the islands.

The whooping-cough was introduced in some way, and spread itself throughout the group.

The influenza prevails both during the winter and spring, but is only fatal to the old and weak.

The native doctors, if such they may be called, frequently aggravate disease by their nostrums. Dr. Judd related to me many instances of their quackery, which not unfrequently ended in death. The native remedies, however, are of some value, if they had knowledge enough properly to apply them; but without this intelligence, they are at all times more or less dangerous: they consist of the candle-nut (*Aleurites triloba*), the bitter calabash (*Cucurbita lagenaria*), the seeds of the castor-oil nut, a species of *Ipomœa*, and many other powerful herbs, of which they make strong decoctions: these are often administered by enema, and their operation frequently brings on great agonies and death. To these are added incantations, which of themselves are quite enough to kill. But, worst of all, it often happens that those who are well are induced to take preventive remedies for future sickness, which are said in some cases to be more severe than the constitution of the patient can bear.

Of surgery the Hawaiians know nothing whatever, nor have they much occasion for its practice, for few of them receive injuries sufficient to call for the application of that branch of the healing art.

The physicians attached to the mission, of which there are several, do incalculable good in alleviating distresses and superintending their