

When travelling, a hoop, bent over the head of the child, protects it from injury. The women are usually dressed in skins very much ornamented with beads.



FEMALE COSTUME.

Mr. Drayton, during his stay, was attracted one day by the sound of beating sticks and a kind of unearthly singing, issuing from one of the lodges. On going to the lodge he found a boy, about eighteen years of age, lying on his back very ill, and in the last stage of disease. Over him stood a medicine-woman, an old haggard-looking squaw, under great excitement, singing as follows:



hi tu e oo ha ha hi tu e oo ha ha ha ha ha ha—ha ha ha ha.

To which shout a dozen men and boys were beating time on the sticks, and singing a kind of bass or tenor accompaniment. The words made use of by the old squaw varied, and were any that would suit the case. She bent over the sick boy, and was constantly in motion, making all kinds of grimaces. She would bare his chest, and pretend by her actions to be scooping out his disease; then she would fall on her knees, and again strive to draw out the bad spirit with both hands, blowing into them, and, as it were, tossing the spirit into the air.