

---page 5---

The deplorable fact is the older people seem^{to} take it as a necessary evil. When speaking to some on the subject, they said, "The young people have always been that way but they are getting worse." We are waiting to see if the council will take measures to stop this; if they don't we shall have to hunt for some other way.

Progress, taken from a yearly standpoint, has been almost imperceptible. But if one remembers that about thirty years ago the people were a murderous people, leaving the undesirable new-born babies to perish in the ditch; constantly warring with the southern Indians and often among themselves; and always at the mercy of the cruel, unscrupulous medicine men--when, I say, one considers these things, the progress seems remarkable. Now they are peaceable more humane and altho still greatly under the influence of the old medicine men that survive, yet not to any extent the abject slaves to their evil wills that they were so short a time before.

The yearly progress, however, seems almost negligible. They are still shockingly dirty, amazingly childlike and aggravatingly slow.

With only a year's experience in the village it would be presumptuous to recommend any very great changes. But such stations as Selawik, whose only mode of travel in the summer is by water, need a small motor boat very badly. At present the local superintendent must rely on native conveyance to deer camps and summer camps of the natives. The herdsmen are supposed to furnish a conveyance and from deer camps but are not always at hand when needed.

I think, too, that the children would make far greater progress in their school work, if their first introduction to books were thru a medium they can understand. It is hard to get them interested in reading about kitties and dolls and collie dogs when they have never seen them. If a primer were published which dealt of the reindeer, fishing and hunting they would "swallow it whole". If the text books in all the subjects were designed with an eye on the Eskimo's ignorance of "The Outside" and everything put into language which he could grasp, the teaching would be much more profitable.

Might I also suggest that a new song book be added to the text books? The children, and in fact, the whole of the village that can read, know every song in the inventoried books from cover to cover. The natives are very musical and dearly like to sing but all year have been clamoring for new songs from a new book.

I think the statistics of the school have been covered under an earlier head and also in the historical report and classroom weight record which will accompany this report.

There have been two deaths and five births in the village during the year. We rendered medical assistance 430 times. The troubles, as far as we could determine, were: "F flu", Tonsillitis, La Grippe, Colds, Constipation, Asthma, Dropsy, Tuberculosis and a sort of paralysis. Quite a few of the children were treated for sores, cuts, burns, etc. We also pulled eighteen teeth.

We have enjoyed our work very much during the past year and are looking forward to a pleasant and profitable year to come.

END.

COPY

Nicholas