



GETTING THE "CURE"

This is a part of the treatment for indigestion. The braves toss the patient up and down on their hands, while the medicine man, on the extreme left, merely observes.

ETHNOLOGY

Navajo Cure for Indigestion Costs Well-to-do Indian \$500

FIVE HUNDRED dollars to cure a simple case of indigestion. This is the doctor's fee which well-to-do Navajo Indians are paying today in southwest United States in order to have their tribal medicine man and his numerous helpers conduct the old-time native "cures" in the old-time fashion. A twenty-five-cent bottle of soda mints might do the same work, but many of the Navajos prefer the more impressive methods of their grandfathers. Some of the treatments for disease last three days, an investigation has shown, and if the family is wealthy enough to stand the added expense, a Mud Dance is included.

The medicine man's course of treatment includes singing to weaken the powers of evil and the carrying out and "slaying" of the disease. But the most remarkable feature is the Mud Dance, which is the climax of a de luxe cure. This is a combination of mummery and clowning and osteopathic treatment of a primitive sort.

The mud dancers, headed by a medicine man and drummer, have a mud

bath specially prepared. The dancers gather in the hogan in which the main ceremonies have been held and one by one emerge from the smoke hole, somersaulting down the earth-covered sides of the dwelling. Then they run in all directions, and woe unto the man they catch. Into the mud he goes, clothes and all. The harder the victim struggles the more firmly his face is ground into the mud and water and the more liberally he is plastered with the sticky mess.

Such dances are exciting, the chase often lasting an hour or more. White spectators, when such happen to be present, are not exempt if the dancers determine to throw them in.

The right of sanctuary is often called into play during the dances. A victim, sorely pressed by the fleet, nearly naked dancers, may dart into the nearest hogan, thereby escaping his persecutors. For it appears to be a rule of the game that a man who gains sanctuary of shelter cannot be dragged out. Often a man may buy off by distributing

cigarettes, candy or small change among his captors.

The dancers are clever in capturing their victims. Even men on horseback are not immune. The fleet footmen will surround a horseman like a pack of wolves and by a dexterous twitch throw off the bridle. One man usually seizes the horse's tail, thus causing the beast to become unmanageable, and before the rider has time to escape he is pulled from the saddle and borne in triumph to his muddy bath.

Rude Massage

After the dance, both the dancers and the victims gather about the patient and give rude massage treatments and manipulate the muscles of the back, chest, legs, arms and neck. Tossing the patient in a blanket is one device. Other people who have ailments but who cannot afford to pay for the elaborate ceremony step forward and get the benefit of similar treatments.

Dancers who fall or suffer minor injuries in the lively scrimmage are also kneaded and have medicine sprayed on them from the mouth of the medicine man. Even the horses sometimes fall during the performances, and they too are treated.

All of this costs the patient's family money. This is expended on fights, on the medicine man's bill for services rendered, and on food for the guests. The latter is no small item when two or three hundred hungry Navajos, men, women and children, assemble to help a sick Navajo feel better.

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CALENDAR REFORM

Delegate May be Sent to Calendar Reform Meeting

THE STATE DEPARTMENT may soon make an announcement regarding an official delegate from the United States to attend an international conference on calendar reform in Geneva in October.

The calendar reformists led by George Eastman, retired president of the Eastman Kodak Company, want thirteen months instead of twelve, each with twenty-eight days; or else twelve months neatly catalogued into four quarters of 91 days, 91 days, 91 days and 92 days respectively.

The United States had a delegate at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee—Dr. Charles F. Marvin, chief of the United States Weather Bureau.

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