

BOOK REVIEW

Recherches Amerindiennes au Quebec, Vol. XVIII No. 1, Printemps 1988: La santé en transition. (Amerindian Research in Quebec, 18(1), Spring 1988: Health in Transition). Recherches amerindiennes au Quebec, 6742 Saint Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S2, Canada. Pp. 99. \$7.00 (this issue), \$20.00 (regular annual subscription).

"Recherches Amerindiennes au Quebec" is a journal devoted to the dissemination of information on the Amerindians of Quebec, and to research by Quebec authors on Amerindians. Articles are published in French only, but English abstracts are provided at the back of each issue (since 12(2): 1982). Each issue has a primary theme but may also include short articles on unrelated topics. The journal has been published quarterly since 1971. It is indexed in "Abstracts in Anthropology," "Historical Abstract," "America: History and Life," and "Point de repère."

The issue "La santé en transition" is edited by Robert Larocque, Anthropology Department, University of Montreal. The seven main articles were selected to present several aspects of the relationship between diseases and cultural evolution, with a focus on the study of evidence from skeletal remains.

The first two articles discuss the health status of Amerindian populations in the transitional period of first contact with Europeans. Larocque concludes that disease had a negligible effect, in comparison to the disruption of social order, in the process of colonization. Gagné examines the high infant mortality rate at a Jesuit mission during the colonial period, and finds that malnutrition and

respiratory infections were important contributing factors, in addition to the widely reported effects of smallpox epidemics.

The transition period between the nomadic contact-traditional life style and settlement in villages is the setting for the report of Choinière *et al.*, who find that the evolution in causes of mortality of the Inuit, from infectious and parasitic diseases to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and violent deaths, is a reflection of recent improvements in sanitary conditions and social changes related to settlement.

In the first of three practical articles that follow, Katzenberg describes the use of skeletal remains to determine the nutritional and health status of prehistoric people. Saunders provides background information on bone structure and growth, and describes how information from ancient skeleta can be applied to health problems of modern populations. Larocque provides a summary statement on the ethics of exhumation and analysis of human remains in archaeology, and follows this with the Ontario government legal situation and position statements by various professional associations of physical anthropology and archaeology.

Finally, Philie and Foggin describe the difficulties encountered by modern health care workers in northern Quebec.

By combining articles on the techniques of skeletal analysis with articles illustrating the use of these techniques for health and nutrition research, and the legal and ethical guidelines to be followed, Larocque has provided an interesting and informative issue for ethnobiologists, especially those with an orientation towards health issues and archaeology.

Other issues of "Recherches Amerindiennes au Quebec" of interest to ethnobiologists would be 9(1-2):1979, on the ecology and exploitation of caribou in Quebec and Labrador; 12(1):1982, on modern and historic native health issues; 14(1):1984, on aquatic resource exploitation by Amerindians; 15(3):1985, on hunting and wildlife management; and 17(4):1987, on ethno-science.

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