

with the same tremulous shriek that had been before produced, and retired; which closed this part of the entertainment. The ornamented shields used on this occasion were afterwards hung up with the medicine.

Soon after followed the great buffalo medicine. Ninety Indians, — men, women, and children, — disguised in buffalo robes, having the pates and horns on them, in imitation of living buffalo, collected upon the side of a hill just outside the camp. At the proper signal, — the great medicine chief, standing some distance to the left of the entrance to the medicine house, holding something in his hand that made a smoke, — they came in a long procession, followed in the rear by one very old and weak one, which continued to fall back from the others, and, to keep his position, would endeavor to run; but would fall down, get up after several efforts, and jog along again.

After the others had reached the medicine house, they took several turns around it before apparently, finding the entrance, when they cautiously entered, before the old, feeble buffalo in the rear came up, which, after considerable exertion, and several times falling down, accomplished three entire circuits of the building before entering it. As soon as all the buffalo had entered, nearly the whole population of the encampment, who had been standing about midway between the first circle of lodges and the medicine house, started upon the double quick for the medicine house.

Upon entering it, the buffalo were found lying down,

huddled together around the central post, with their heads either towards it or directly from it, except the old veteran of the rear; he lay near, and with his head towards the entrance, forming a most ludicrous spectacle, as we entered. The hair of his sides and back had been partially rubbed off, and hung in shabby tags, while his head was shaggy and his horns enormous.

The great medicine chief, painted white, wearing a buffalo robe and fur head-dress, stood opposite, and facing the entrance, holding in his hands something similar to the squirt-gun of my boyhood days.

He was accompanied by two old men, also wrapped in buffalo robes. After some fifteen or twenty minutes of profound silence, the two old men advanced, and commenced a minute examination of the buffalo — feeling them, punching them, and talking to them; occasionally holding up a small stick, apparently pulled out of the side of a buffalo, and addressing a few words to the medicine chief, *he* would step forward, and squirt a small quantity of the contents of his gun into the hair of the animal; one of the old men would then make a short speech, holding up the stick to view, and conclude by placing it upon the buffalo from which it was first taken. Hereupon the wild, tremulous shrieking of the women rent the air. This was repeated several times, and finally, at a signal from the medicine chief, the ceremony ended, and I saw no more medicine to-day.

19th. — Music and dancing continued in the medicine house through the night. At an early hour this morn-