

like a racket; the ball that they use in playing is of wood, and nearly the shape of a turkey's egg. The goals of the game are marked off on a level surface, and face the points of the compass. In order to win the game, one of the two parties must, in its progress, carry its ball beyond the eastern and western goals—the other, beyond the northern and southern. . . . Men, women, girls, and boys are admitted to the games that take place, and bet against one another—the wagers being more or less valuable, according to the means of each. These games usually begin after the melting of the winter's ice, and last until seed-time. . . . All assemble in a body, in the middle of the place selected; and one of the chiefs of the two parties, who holds the ball in his hands, throws it in the air. Each player undertakes to send it to that side for which he is bound; if it fall to the ground, he endeavors to draw it toward him with his crosse; and if it is sent outside the crowd of players, this is an opportunity for the most alert to distinguish themselves beyond the others by closely following it. One can hear the noise they make in striking against one another, while they strive to ward off the blows in order to send the ball in a favorable direction. If one keeps it between his feet, without letting it escape, it is for him to avoid the blows that his adversaries rain incessantly upon his feet; and if, in this encounter, he happens to be wounded, that is his own affair. Some of them are seen with broken legs or arms, and some even have been killed. It is very common to see them crippled for the rest of their days."

Charlevoix gives the following account of the game (*Journ. Hist.*, p. 319), as played by the Miamis: "It is played with a Ball, and with Staffs recurved and terminated by a sort of Racket. Two Posts are set up, which serve as Bounds, and which are distant from each other in proportion to the number of Players. For instance, if there are eighty of these, there will be a half-league between the Posts. The Players are divided into two bands, each having its own Post; and it is a question of driving the Ball as far as the Post of the opposing Party, without falling upon the ground or being touched by the hand. If either of these happens, the Game is lost,—unless he who has committed the mistake repairs it, by driving the Ball with one stroke to the Bound, which is often impossible. These Savages are so adroit in catching the Ball with their Crosses, that these Games sometimes last several days in succession."

Lafitau (*Mœurs des Sauvages*, part 2, p. 356) quotes Pollux to show that crosse is precisely the same as the Greek game of *episkyros*; Tailhan thinks it resembles the *palican* of the Chilean aborigines; and Clapin (*Dict. Canad.-Fran.*) says that it is almost the same as the *soule* of the Ardennes mountaineers in France, and,