

CHAPTER XIII.

OPINIONS OF THE HURONS REGARDING THEIR DISEASES.

THE Hurons recognize three kinds of diseases. Some are natural, and they cure these with natural remedies. Others, they believe, are caused by the soul of the sick person, which desires something; these they cure by obtaining for the soul what it desires. Finally, the others are diseases caused by a spell that some sorcerer has cast upon the sick person; these diseases [100] are cured by withdrawing from the patient's body the spell that causes his sickness.

This spell may be a knot of hair; a piece of a man's nail, or of an animal's claw; a piece of leather, or of bone; a leaf of a tree, some grains of sand, or other similar things.

The charms are expelled sometimes by means of emetics, sometimes by sucking the diseased part, and extracting from it what is claimed to be the spell. In this, some Jugglers are so expert in their art that with the point of a knife they seem to extract or rather they cause to appear whatever pleases them — a piece of iron, or a pebble, which they say that they have drawn from the heart, or from inside the patient's bones, without, however, making any incision.

Now, although I do not think that they have any diseases except those that are natural, still they are so apt to convince themselves of the contrary that