Kuhnlein and Turner cite one report that some tribes, such as the Caribou and Copper Inuit, "seldom picked cloudberries although they were plentiful."

In his 1964 essay Krebs also stated:

> Obviously, animals such as the caribou are important in the diet of these people. In eating the caribou the frozen contents of the rumen or paunch are utilized as a salad and considered a delicacy. … One teaspoonful of such rumenal salad might be expected to carry 100 mg or more of nitriloside.

There is no reference given for the notion that the Inuit regularly ate "rumenal salad." In their work, Kuhnlein and Turner comprehensively surveyed the diet of the Inuit (and some other indigenous peoples). But there is no mention there of a salad made from the animals' rumen content.

I am sure that one might find instances of Inuits eating vegetables, even those containing laetrile, but there were clearly Inuit people who lived entirely without vegetables for nine months of the year or who chose to eat a diet with a total or near-total absence of laetrile. But far from being afflicted by a pandemic of cancer, there were no reported cases.

According to Krebs's theory, cancer should have been *nearly universal* among certain Inuit tribes. Yet, according Stefansson and many other accounts, they were virtually free from cancer until the early 1930s. The cause was not the ingestion of laetrile, which probably had nothing to do with it. Many things changed in the transition from a hunter-gatherer society to a more modern society, albeit one existing at the geographical edge of the Western world.

Notes

1. *Rubus spectabilis* is a kind of salmon-colored raspberry. Rubus chamaemorus is smaller and amber colored.

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