

attack his men, and he told the story of the origin of the plague, and the discovery of guaiacum as a cure.

" A shepherd once (distrust not ancient fame)
Possess these downs, and Syphilus his name."

He kept the flocks of King Alcithous, and one year the drought was so extreme that the cattle perished for want of water. So incensed was Syphilus that he blasphemed the Sun-God in good set terms and decided from henceforth to offer no sacrifices to him, but to worship King Alcithous. The shepherd won all the people to his way and the king was overjoyed and proclaimed himself "in Earth's low sphere to be the only and sufficient deity." But the Sun-God, enraged, darted forth infection on air, earth and streams, and Syphilus became the first victim of the new disease.

" He first wore buboes dreadful to the sight,
First felt strange pains and sleepless past the night ;
From him the malady received its name."

Becoming a general pestilence, the Sun-God was appealed to, and his priests promised a cure if a proper sacrifice was made to appease the offended deity. The lot fell on Syphilus, who was bound on the altar with his throat laid open to the uplifted knife, but at the last moment Juno interceded and commanded them to slay a heifer in his stead. An annual sacrifice in commemoration of this event was held, and a swine bound to the altar "to witness Syphilus his crime." The guaiacum was given as a cure for the disease. The afflicted sailors learned of the natives how to pre-