

leprosy actively holds in the Republic of Colombia. It was necessary for me to suppress that part. When I shall publish that part of the 'memoir' I shall remit to you a proof, by which you can rectify the data."

4. *Description of the character of leprosy: the ceramics do not represent such character, for that reason they are not lepers.*

The eminent Prof. R. Virchow, having presented some ceramics remitted by Dr. Albert S. Ashmead, of New York, in which were seen mutilations of the feet, the nose, and the upper lip, and as he insinuated in the Session of October 13th, that said mutilations were caused by leprosy, I protested, on looking at them, and said that leprosy had not existed in America before the discovery—the ceramics were, as was solemnly affirmed, anterior to the discovery—and that, in consequence, these mutilations were not caused by that disease, and would better be attributed to punishments imposed for certain delinquencies, which, being heard by Mr. Polakowsky, were put to the knowledge of the members of the Conference, without my authority, and without my supposing that he was going to make use of that subject.* By reason of the discourse of Mr. Polakowsky during the sessions, the respectable savant, Dr. Virchow, approached me, to inquire what it was I had said to Mr. Polakowsky about the mutilations. I declared to him that leprosy had not existed in Colombia, nor in any part of America before the conquest, of which I possess my proofs; that the form of the mutilations, in right angles, perpendicular to the axes of the members, did not correspond to those which leprosy caused, which consisted in absorption of some of the bones of the metatarsus, leaving the others unhurt; sometimes they extended to all the bones of the tarsus, and not to all, giving irregular cicatrices; that the mutilations of the hands are more frequent than those of the feet, as I had observed in my practice; and that the ceramics, not offering these mutilations in any one evidently should remove the idea of leprosy; that in the nose, likewise, appeared straight lines, which does not correspond with lesions caused by leprosy, which destroys ordinarily the septum, and sparing the real bones of the nose, and soft parts, the skin, etc., whilst in the ceramics, that which appeared was a cutting off of all the organ, extending even to the upper lip, spared generally by leprosy so far as the mutilations are concerned; then the tubercles, if they invade it, always deform it without causing it to disappear.

This, a little more or less, was what I said to Prof. Virchow, and the subject was not returned to, to be considered in the sessions of the Conference.

The Peruvian ceramics which represent mutilations, cannot

* Carrasquilla never opened his mouth in the discussion in the Berlin Leper Conference. His opinion was privately expressed in conversation with Polakowsky, who courteously brought his name into the question and received, in return, only vituperation.—ASHMEAD.