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THE BIRTHPLACES OF YELLOW FEVER.

(Translated from the Spanish).

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Dr. Domingo Freire, of Rio de Janeiro, who was commissioned by the Brazilian Government to examine into and report on the subject of yellow fever, has presented the following to his Government, touching the birthplaces of yellow fever. It was translated from the Portuguese language into Spanish, for the use of the Chilean Government in Peru. As the subject is entirely new it may interest the many readers of the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD. The following is a literal translation:

"In the discharge of the commission that was confided to me by the Government I have met with facts of great interest touching the pathology and therapeutics of yellow fever, and which will be the subject of a separate report to which I shall specially devote myself. I consider it my duty, however, to make known, as soon as possible, a circumstance of great interest in connection with public hygiene.

"During a visit that I paid to the Cemetery of Jurujaba, where all are buried who die in the Marine Hospital of Saint Isabel, I gathered a handful of earth at a depth of one foot from the surface, over the grave of a person who had died, about a year previously, of yellow fever. This earth did not differ in color or odor or any external feature from the surrounding earth; but by examining a small quantity with a microscope magnifying 740 diameters, taking the usual precautions to avoid error, I found myriads of microbes, exactly resembling those met in the vomited matters, urine and blood, and other organic liquids from the bodies of those attacked by yellow fever, viz.,—the cells of *cryptococcus zanthogenicus* in various stages of growth, from the size of a black speck, difficult to recognize in the field, up to round corpuscles, more or less large, strongly reflecting light, some being grey, while others were black, and surrounded by a fringe or areola of that color. Many of the organisms moved spontaneously. There were yellowish masses marked by granulations that came out clearly in the field, likewise masses made up of the coloring matter of the cells; we also saw specks that were entirely black, being the remains of the *cryptococci*.

"I also observed vibrios. They moved with rapidity. These observations were verified in all their details by my assistants, Messrs. Chapot, Augustus Cesar, and Carminhva, showing clearly that the germs of yellow fever perpetuate themselves in cemeteries, and that cemeteries are birthplaces for the evolution of new germs, destined to devastate our city (Rio de Janeiro).