

This datum is found in the 'Coleccion de documentos meditos,' etc.

You will find in the document to which I refer, taken from a register of annotations, which I here introduce, which includes all that can serve for our special studies (Copio del tomo, ii., p. 463), as follows:

"Lepra: This nation (Tunebos) is naturally marked with leprosy, with which they are all covered, and according to what is told me, it is the evil which will surely destroy them: the children inheriting it from the fathers. By this disease they are loathsome," etc., etc.

This notice refers to Pilar de Patuti, a town where ends the territory of the Jesuit fathers, to the north of the river Casanare, and although it is one of the oldest, it has so little prospered that its decadence is deplorable. Founded in the year 1661, by Father Juan Fernandez Pedroche, etc. (Coleccion de documentos meditos sobre la Geografia y la Historia de Colombia, re copilados por Antonio B. Cuervo—Seccion segunda, Tom. iii., 1893.)

This was the work Mr. Polakowsky cited, and as you see, it refers to the question of knowing whether or not leprosy existed in America before the discovery. The proof that the Spaniards called lepra another disease of the skin, and that which the Tunebos suffered of was not lepra, is given in the following passage from Padre Rivero: "Greatly opposed to this people is the nation Tuneba. I do not know a people more brutal, nor more filthy, nor more inclined to tales and bad reports, in all that range of mountains. The men, as well as the women, go clothed with a single linen sash, and dirty, somewhat like the costume of the Armenios, which cover them from above downwards. They care for nothing less than to comb the hair of the head, which they wear dishevelled, filled with some dirty little animals. They consider it a great recreation to place themselves in the sun, and sitting there, to catch and eat them all, without which none could die. They have no dish more agreeable to them than a piece of putrid flesh, and nothing more stinking is known than it.

"They are attacked by a certain filthy and loathsome disease, called 'carate,' which is a kind of lepra, with which are covered even the features and the hands, with spots blue and white, which give horror to see them. They are so savage, as a whole, that they pride and glorify themselves with this disease, to such a degree that if any girl of the district has not had 'carate,' nobody wants her for a wife; hence, by way of convenience, and in order that they shall not lose marriage, a certain drink is given, which gives rise to carate, and soon, without more patrimony or gift, is found the convenience to aid claimants, as if they found in the carate an heirloom, or family estate, or marquisate, or *Estate of Flanders*."