

quent manifestations appreciated and understood, but the therapeutic value of mercury was fully recognized. A Chinese treatise describes with great minuteness laryngeal symptoms, ostoscopic pains, and condylomata.

Similarly, it is claimed that certain Egyptian and Assyrian inscriptions show clearly that some relation was established between local genital disease resulting from sexual indulgence and lesions observed later upon the trunk limbs and organs of sense.

There is strong reason to believe that reference is made to gonorrhoea in the regulations prescribed by the Levitical Law, but that syphilis was recognized among the Hebrews, is only inferred by some vague phrases; as for example, the strong expressions in which David after the loss of his child bewails the disease of his bones, the loss of his strength, and the cleavage of his tongue to his palate, have been urged in proof of syphilis derived from the woman and the cause of the premature death of the child.

In the literature of the Middle Ages, an oft quoted sentence appears, that the whole body may be infested as the result of lesions in the foul uterus.

If syphilis actually existed previous to the 15th century, it is probable it had not yet attained the virulence and formidable features of a later date.

In 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain from America and some of his company were treated for syphilis by a physician, the symptoms of which first appeared on shipboard. An epidemic of syphilis was reported the following year.

Soon after this the Spaniards and the French troops of Charles VIII. were brought into contact in a war in Italy. The aristocratic officers led the most dissolute of lives, and the rank and file assiduously followed their example.

Now for the first time syphilis was revealed in completeness to the study of medical men. An unmistakable epidemic spread with more or less rapidity, over Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Rhine Provinces.

One view explains the epidemic by an entirely American origin, the other bases its conclusions on the lighting up of previously existing distant germs.

The history of syphilis from the beginning of the 16th century is comparable with that of the advance of all science, in the same time. The evolution of symptoms were soon studied, but the employment of mercury in the management of the disease was not systematized till