

THE ANCIENT EXISTENCE OF SYPHILIS.

A good deal has been written upon the existence of syphilis among the ancients, and where the disease came from in the first instances. It has been held by some that the disease existed in America and the old world long prior to the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Another set of writers urge that the disease was imported into Europe after the discovery of America by Columbus. On the other hand there are those who contend that the disease was brought to America from Europe.

In France many skeletons have been found, which the highest authorities have declared show the unmistakable evidence of syphilis. The skeletons belong to the stone age, and are undoubtedly as far back in history as the early Roman period.

Chinese writings place the existence of syphilis at a very remote date, as early indeed as 2,000 B. C. There are not wanting strong grounds for thinking that the disease prevailed among the Greeks and Romans in the days of their greatest prosperity. Skulls of a very remote time obtained in Peru clearly point out that syphilis was not unknown there. And there are indications of a credible nature that make it quite clear that the druids were acquainted with it.

It is thus quite evident that syphilis is not only a widely spread disease, but one that dates from very early times. From time to time, it has appeared in history to have assumed a very violent form. This occurred in Europe shortly after the discovery of America. Such a phenomenon may be due to the disease being rendered much more active by the type of it as it existed in America being taken to Europe.

The value of mercury in the treatment of the disease was also known to the ancients.

THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Ontario Medical Association will begin its twenty-fifth annual meeting on the morning of Tuesday, June the 6th, under the presidency of Dr. Wm. Burt, of Paris.

A program full of papers of an exceedingly interesting character has been secured through the efforts of the energetic committee on papers. Beside the large number of local men who will participate, the committee feels itself honored in being able to announce papers to be read by two men from across the line who have distinguished themselves in their special fields of work, Dr. A. J. Ochsner, of Chicago, the eminent surgeon, and Dr. W. B. Pritchard, of New York, the neurologist associated with the Post-Graduate Hospital of that city.