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## *Original Contributions.*

### NO EVIDENCE IN AMERICA OF PRE-COLUMBIAN LEPROSY.\*

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As a continuation of my answer† to the Berlin Anthropological Society's discussion on my paper, the question of "Pre-Columbian Leprosy in America," contributed to the Berlin Lepra Conference, I submit the following letter which I wrote to Dr. Dorsey, of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago :

"I am going to ask you to do me the favor which you promised when I sent you my little pamphlets. Will you look over your Huacos pots and send me a photograph of such of them as represent disease deformation of faces and amputated feet ! I contributed a paper to the Berlin Lepra Conference on Huacos pots, in which I claimed that they did not represent leprosy, but syphilis and lupus, or uta. Virchow, in discussing that paper, said that the question remained still in abeyance. He presented a figure from Dr. Von den Steinen, representing a beggar who, said Virchow, was a leper. Carrasquilla, of Colombia, thinks that the amputated feet of some of the images represent Inca punishment. Polakowsky and Von den Steinen reject the punishment theory, and stand by my opinion that there is no leprosy expressed. I shall be much obliged to you if you can help me in further research."

Here is Dr. Dorsey's reply :

"FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM, CHICAGO, *June 11th, 1898.*

"DEAR DOCTOR ASHMEAD,—Your letter of April 20th was duly received, in which you make inquiry in regard to certain pathological conditions appearing on Peruvian pottery. I have been unable to take this matter up before, owing to certain extensive changes in our department of photography, but will have the matter attended to at once, and you may expect two or three interesting

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\* Written exclusively for THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

† See "Transactions Berlin Anthropological Society, 1898."