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Leprosy of the Bible, and its Present Existence in North America.

BY B. JOY JEFFRIES, A.M., M.D, BOSTON.

To most of my readers the word leprosy is probably associated with some vague idea of a terrible disease spoken of in the Bible as existing among the Jews during their Egyptain life and following them into Judea; whilst mention of it in the New Testament proves that they was still afflicted with it during the time of our Saviour. I propose, therefore, to give my readers a short sketch of the malady itself, and explain where on the earth's surface it is now prevalent, as well as where in North America it may unfortunately still be seen.

First of all I must premise by saying, that while as a dermatologist I recognize in the Bible, for instance, a perfect description of leprosy as it exists at present in many parts of the world, yet I consider that many other cutaneous affections now perfectly understood, were included in the biblical accounts, which have naturally been much confused by the various translators being unacquainted with the diseases spoken of and unable to reproduce the sketches of them in intelligible language. This point is now too well understood and appreciated to need any discussion here. I speak of it only because it must be remembered.

The medical name for the leprosy we are discussing, is *Elephantiasis Græcorum* to distinguish it from an entirely different affection, *Elephantiasis Arabum*, the two having been confounded by the ignorance of translators. Now, then, what is true leprosy, or *Elephantiasis Græcorum*, the Greek elephant disease? It is a disease of the blood of unknown origin, which shows itself by the collecting of an albuminious material in the skin, the mucous membranes and tissues of the body, or by invading the nerves and the nervous centres. We thus have two forms of its manifestation, which are distinguished by the terms *tubercular* and *anæsthetic*. In the first, the most characteristic symptom is the lumps and nodes in the skin, and in the latter, the paralysis, *et cetera*, due to the invasion of the nerves and nervous centres. In both forms the affection is very chronic, lasting from nine to eighteen years, before death finally comes to relieve the sufferer from his misery. Tubercular leprosy commences by the appearance of dull red or purplish patches or lumps on the skin, and the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, nose and eyes. As they progress, the patches are harder in the centre, and of brownish color; the nodes or tubercles are dull red to purplish, and finally assuming a bronzed hue, till the substance deposited in them gives them a whitish color. After months, they may subside, leaving a thinner whitish cicatrix. When they break down, large cutaneous ulcers are formed, one healing whilst others form. This same morbid process goes on in the mouth, throat, and windpipe, and the deposit invades the internal organs of the body, gradually wearing out the sufferer, on an average, within nine and a half years. The discolored and wrinkled forehead, the prominent, tuberculated, bald eyebrows, the bronzed skin, congested eyes, thickened eyelids and lips, the large, red, and lengthened ears, all form a hideous picture, which makes the unfortunate leper resemble the poet's description of a satyr.

The anæsthetic form of leprosy is characterised by nervous symptoms, languor, lassitude, dullness, depression, pale and shrunken skin, anxious countenance, soft and flabby muscles; in general terms, insensibility and atrophy. We have white patches and large blister-like bubbles breaking down into cutaneous ulcers, which, healing, leave white cicatrices. Extensive surfaces of the skin become reddened with prickling pain, and the skin is left pale and insensible, like parchment. The face becomes wasted and cadaverous, the jaw drooping from muscular atrophy. The hands become thin, paralysed, the fingers bent; the same with the feet and toes. Later, a spot appears over a joint of the hand or foot, breaking down into an open ulcer, exposing the bone, and finally the whole bone is thrown off, reducing gradually the hand or foot to mere stumps. The internal organs are effected, the eyeballs destroyed, the surface on parts of the body becomes insensible to the knife, or even live coals. The patient is worn out by the disease, sinking, at a general average, of some eighteen and a half years. These two forms of leprosy run separate courses, but are sometimes, so to speak, united; the same person exhibiting symptoms of each. Occasionally they run an acute course, destroying the patient in a few years. Its almost certain fatality, its lingering character and fitful course, its fearful disfigurement, and, we regret to add, the ignorance and superstition regarding it, render leprosy the most dreaded chronic malady that affects mankind. This rough sketch of what it does to man's body will perhaps explain to my readers why it is so dreaded, and interest them in my outline of where and when this horrible malady has scourged the human inhabitants of the world, and, I trust, also induces them to have more rational ideas in reference to the care and treatment of lepers than that which unfortunately still prevails in many civilized countries.

The same leprosy yet so prevalent in many parts of the world is spoken of as afflicting the Jews during their four-century sojourn in Egypt. They carried it, of course, into Palestine. The writings of Moses, the Books of Kings, and the Chronicles, show how the people were afflicted by this disease. The New Testament speaks of its prevalence during our Saviour's time. In Greece, Aristotle perhaps meant leprosy by his *satyria*, but Areteus and Archigenes gave the first exact description. In Italy, the Romans mentioned leprosy before the time of Christ. Pliny the Elder speaks of it as coming with the army of Pompey from Asia and Egypt; Plutarch says it did not enter Rome till Asclepiad's time. During Galen's life, leprosy had spread to Germany, to Mysia and Scythia, and thus over the greater part of the then known Eastern Europe. Areteus traces it from thence to the Celts, and so over Western Europe. From the 2d to the 7th centuries it was certainly widely extended over the whole of Europe, since all medical writers mention it as among the most common of diseases. In the 7th century it was so common among the Lombards as to cause them to be shunned by other people. Pope Sylvester I. dissuaded Pepin, King of France, from marrying a Lombard princess, because she was disposed to leprosy. In other countries, also, we have records of the spread or perhaps, original springing up of leprosy. In India, Persia, Turkey, Hindoostan, Russia, it would seem to have moved gradually from the East to the West, and from the South to the North. It certainly has arisen and declined at different periods. Through Europe, by the time of the Crusades, it had reached its height. Mention by medical authors, and laws for the establishment and government of leper or lazar-houses, point out to us the invasion, frequency, and gradual decline of the disease in those countries where it has prevailed, and whose written history still remains. From the 15th to the 17th centuries it began to decline in Europe. That most industrious observer, the late Sir James Simpson, of Edinburgh, hunted up the notices of leprosy and leper hospitals in Great Britain. The earliest records of the disease are those of the Welsh King, Hoel Dha, in the year 950. From that date until the beginning of the 16th century, the disease was common in England. During the reign of Edward VI., 1550, it is reported by a commission for the suppressing of colleges, hospitals etc., that most of the lazar-houses in England were empty. In Scotland, the disease appeared later, 1150 being the date of the earliest lazar-houses, but leprosy was still traceable during the 17th century. In 1604, a leprous woman was ordered into the lazar-house at Aberdeen, and a notice of the same date exists of the presence of patients in the hospital at Kingscase, near Ayr,. Symptoms of decline of the disorder in Scotland are perceived in an order for dismantling the lazar-house at Greenside, Edinburgh, in 1652; but in the islands to the north of Scotland, the Orkneys, Shetland, and Faroe Islands, the disease was in full activity. Towards the middle of the 18th century, namely, in 1742, leprosy was supposed to have disappeared in the Shetland Islands, and a public thanksgiving was ordered to commemorate that event; but instances still present themselves occasionally, as is shown in the account of the parish of Northmaven, given by Mr. Jack, in 1758. In 1798, also, a patient was in the Edinburgh Infirmary; he was a native of Shetland, and a direct descendant from leprous ancestors.

Naturally enough, many other patients with loathsome diseases were sent into the leper hospitals. The records are, however, so clear of the gradual disappearance of the disease in countries where it was once prevalent, as to encourage us to hope for its final fading away from those portions of the earth now still scourged by it. But where, I hear some one asking, does leprosy exist to-day? I could almost best answer by stating where it does *not* exist. It still lingers amongst many of its old haunts on the shores of the Mediterranean, in France, Italy, Greece, and the Grecian Islands. On the Black Sea shores it even has the name of "Crimean disease." It is endemic at the mouths of the rivers of the Caspian Sea, such as the Polga. The islands of the Indian Ocean have their share still. The Atlantic islands, also, like Maderia and the West India Islands, Mexico and South America. The exteme north is still its home, —Iceland and the coast of Norway. In Norway a royal commission was appointed, a few years back, to examine into the nature of the disease, and determine the course to be taken to limit its progress, and, if possible, effect its cure. The report of this commission was printed in French, at the expense of the Norwegian government. The writers were Drs. Danielssen and Boeck. It is the first complete work on leprosy, and details the disease and its treatment in the hospitals devoted to it at Bergen, in Norway. Its great value is also enhanced by the accompanying portraits of the patient affected with leprosy. Since then these physicians have published still more elaborate portraits of the disease. I pause here to say that leprosy, where prevalent, spares neither rank or condition. Dr. Simpson says that observations are by no means sufficient either decidedly to confirm or controvert the opinion that King Henry IV. was affected with leprosy; but they serve to show, at least, that at the time at which he lived rank of the highest kind was not considered as any barrier against an attack of the disease. In none of the alleged cases of leprosy in the royal family of England, is the proof of the actual existence of the disease at all indubitable and complete. The evidence is more certain and satisfactory in regard to the occurrence of the malady in its genuine form in other scions of the House of Anjou, than those who ascended the throne of England; for instance, Baldwin IV., King of Jerusalem, a direct descendant, like the Plantaganets of England, from Fulk, Count of Anjou and Tourraine. All historians seem to agree in stating Baldwin IV. to have labored for some years under leprosy, and to have ultimately resigned his sceptre in consequence of disability from that disease. Euller, in 1174, says of him, "He was inclined to the leprosie called elephantiasis." By 1183 the leprosie had arrested him prisoner and kept him at home;" "at last he was made to stoop, and retired himself to prevate life."

The disease also did not spare the royal family of Scotland. At least two cases of leprosy are alleged to have occurred among the members of it. King Robert the Bruce died of it.

In 1867 the British Government published a "Report on Leprosy, by the Royal College of Physicians, to her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies." The portion of the report relating to India contains over a hundred replies from medical officers located between Peshawur and Calcutta, and the Himalayas and Central India, together with Burmah and the Straits. From a perusal of this report we learn that there are parts of British India where *one out of every sixteen people* is affected with leprosy. Whether it is on the increase, is difficult to say. The natives are reported as shunning even the mention of the disease, and will invariably, if possible, mislead as to the facts of the case. Leprosy is shown to be very common among the natives throughout the whole Presidency and the Straits. It is common in the three stations of Penang, Malacca, and Singapore. It would seem as if India was the present home of leprosy, although few portions of the globe are quite free from it. Its prevalence in parts of what we call China is well shown by the local hospitals for its cure and treatment. This report I have just spoken of, and the various letters of medical men from different parts of the world, in reply to a general request for personal information from Prof. Virchow, of Berlin, have given a much more correct and extended knowledge of this fearful malady, but one which the student of dermatology had already acquired through Drs. Danielssen & Boeck's special treatise, published in 1848.

Wool and Woolens.

During the past year the market for domestic fleece wools has been subject to great depression, consequent upon the sluggish condition of the woolen goods trade. Broadcloth is now worn much less than heretofore, and the demand for the finest varieties of wool is small, as compared with that for the coarser qualities. Manufacturers have bought very sparingly of all descriptions of the raw material, and the market generally has proved weak. Prices of domestic grades for several months past sustained a steady decline, and the trade lacked life or animation. The frequent failures of manufactures and commission merchants gave rise to distrust, and wool dealers were disposed to sell only for cash, or on the most undoubted credit. The lower grades of coarse wools were the most sought for, but these came into competition with foreign and California wools, in consequence of the relatively low prices of the latter.

The steady demand for foreign cloths is also promotive of injury to our home manufactures. In spite of the superior quality of many varieties of our domestic made goods, there appears to be no material abatement in the importation of English and French fabrics.

As a class, our manufacturers have been heavy losers from depreciation in the value of their goods, and in many cases the latter have sold considerably below the cost of production. This loss in a measure, arose from two causes, not previously stated, that we shall now consider in detail. Manufacturers have all along failed to see that their interests were identical. They have for the past two seasons rushed into competition with each other in the Western markets, in their purchases of needed supplies of the raw material. Their action was attended by great excitement, and they very recklessly run up prices to figures much in advance of the ruling rates prevailing in New York and other Eastern cities. The consequences of this indiscretion could not be other than disastrous. The cost of their goods was greatly enhanced, without any corresponding increase in the selling rates. Another feature pregnant with loss to both dealers and manufacturers was the numerous failures that occurred in both the wool and woolen goods trade. These occurrences repeatedly threw on the market large stocks of goods at very low prices, which resulted in demoralizing the regular and legitimate traffic in wool and woolens. The customary outlets from the distribution of these staples was clogged up, which led to still further embarrassments in mercantile circles.

Even with a reported short crop of domestic fleece wools prices continued to recede until the opening of hostilities in Europe. Since then the advance in gold has given more confidence to holders. The market now rules buoyant, and desirable wools are selling at higher rates. If the war continues it is more than likely there will be an active demand for domestic fleeces, and also for the better grades of California and Texas wools.

The woolen goods trade as yet shows only moderate signs of activity, but with an upward movement in wools, an increased demand from abroad for many of our leading agricultural products, we may anticipate a gradual return to a quicker and better market for our manufactured goods.—*Journal of Commerce.*

FARMS AND TREES.—In my judgment, the porportion of a small farm that should be permanently devoted to trees (other than fruit) is not less than one-fourth; while of farms exceeding one hundred acres in area, that porportion should not be less than one-third, and may often be profitably increased to one-half. I am thinking of such as are in good part superficially rugged and rocky, or sandy and sterile, such as New England, eastern New York, northern New Jersey, with both slopes of the Alleghanies, as well as the western third of our continent, abound in. It may be that it is advisable to be content with a smaller proportion of timber in the prairie States and the broad, fertile intervales which embosom most of our great rivers for at least a part of their course; but I doubt it. And there is scarcely a farm in the whole country, outside of the great primitive forests in which openings have but recently been made, in which some tree-planting is not urgently required. In my own hilly, rocky, and often boggy, Westchester—probably within six of being the oldest agricultural county in the Union—I am confident that 10,000 acres might to-morrow be given back to forest with profit to the owners and advantage to all its inhabitants. It is a fruit-growing, milk-producing, truck-farming county, closely adjoining the greatest city of the New World; hence, one wherein land can be cultivated as profitably as almost anywhere else—yet I am satified that half its surface may be more advantageously devoted to timber than to grass or tillage.

Nay, I doubt that one acre in a hundred of rocky land—that is, land ribbed or dotted with rocks that the bar or the rock-hook cannot lift from their beds, and which it will not as yet pay to blast —is now tilled to profit, or ever will be until it shall be found advisable to clear them utterly of stone breaking through or rising within two feet of the surface. The time will doubtless arrive in which many fields will pay for clearing of stone that would not to-day; these, I urge, should be given up to wood now, and kept wooded until the hour shall have struck for ridding them of every impediment to the steady progress of both the surface and the subsoil plow.—*Horace Greely.*

Alfred Young, surrounded by four generations of his descendents, celebrated his 102d birthday at Hemeoye, N.Y., last week.

Poetry.

A Petition.

Oh, Father! God in Heaven,
Help me my cross to bear;
Till at the feet of Jesus
The glorious crown I wear

The promised crown of glory,
Which the cross shall surely win,
When home from earth to heaven
You gather your children in.

Help me be meek and lowly,
Nor strive for earthly fame;
And help me reverence ever
My great Redeemer's name.

If ever in my anguish,
My star of hope should fail;
And doubt and dire temptations,
My faith in thee assail.

Oh! bear me gently, safely,
Back in the narrow way;
And keep me that I ne'er again
From Thine own fold may stray.

KATE.

Love's Secret Springs.

In asking how I came to choose
This flower that makes my brow to shine,
You seem to say you did not lose
Your choice, my friend, when I had mine!
And by your lifted brow exclaim—
"What charms have charmed you? name their name!"

Nay, pardon me, I cannot say
These are the charms, and these powers,
And being in a trance one day,
I took her for my flower of flowers;
Love doth not flatter what he gives—
But here, sir, are some negatives;

'Tis not the little milk-white hands
That grace whatever work they do;
Tis not the braided silken bands
That shade the eyes of tender blue;
And not the voice so low and sweet
That holds me captive at her feet.

'Tis not in frowns knit up with smiles
Wherewith she scolds me for my sins,
Nor yet in trickery ways nor wiles
That I can say true love begins!
Out of such soil it did not grow,
It was—and that is all I know.

'Tis not her twinkling feet so small
Nor shoulder glancing from her sleeve,
Nor yet her virtues, one and all;
Love was not born to ask our leave;
She was not wooed, nor was I won—
What draws the dewdrop to the sun?

Pardon me, then, I cannot tell—
Nor can you hope to understand—
Why I should love my love so well,
Nor how upon this border land
It fell that she should go with me
Through time into eternity.—*Alice Cary.*

The Art and the Mystery.

Not many years ago, there lived in a small town in Massachusetts, a poor man, but supposed to be honest, who had a large family of children; and he found it necessary to get places for them to work, while they were very young, that they might aid, in part, in earning their own livelihood.

One of the oldest boys happened one day to be in a tailor's shop, and the tailor was so favorably impressed with him, that he proposed to the lad to come and learn the "art and the mystery" of the tailor's trade. And the boy pleased with the offer, consented if his parents should approve. Early the next week, both the parents with their son, with garments all neatly mended, appeared at the shop of the tailor, and stated to him that the proposition as related by the boy had been received with favor, and they had come to consult as to terms, &c. After about the usual amount of conversation in such cases, the terms were stipulated, and the boss patted the boy on the head, saying: "Well my son if you will be a good boy, I will teach you the art and the mystery of the tailor's trade." The parents returned home; and the boy was at first a chore boy, but at length took his seat on the bench, and acquired rapidly the science of sewing, mending, cutting and fitting. In a word he became very polished in his manners, and easy in his address, and the business was largely committed to his care. At length as a reward for his fidelity he became first clerk in the establishment.

During all these long years, he often visited his parents in their plain little home, and they with great solicitude often asked if he had yet been taught the "art and the mystery?" And his reply being uniformly negative, created, as well it might, some uneasiness as to the final issue of the matter. The young man was well pleased with his situation, and his employer was evidently not less satisfied with his foreman and clerk. The anxious parents could not find it in their hearts to broach the matter to the boss, lest it might in some way disturb the condition of the son, whose prospects in every other regard, they thought were as good as could be desired. The last year of the young man's minority was more than half passed, and the discussion, at length became very frequent and earnest. In fact the question was assuming an alarming attitude. After the son had been so faithful and had become so much of a gentleman that the parents scarcely dared speak to him, if now the boss was not going to reveal to him the "art and the mystery" of the tailor's trade, the ruin of the son would be certain.

The young man at length came home elated with joy and found his parents at breakfast. A place at the table was soon made, and the son enjoyed with the family, their frugal meal and related his prospects before them all. He said he was then of age, that his employer was to give him a good salary, and he was to have the care of the shop, and the oldest daughter of his employer was soon to be his wife. The mother could hear no more, but asked at once if he had been taught the "art and the mystery," to which he artlessly answered no! Then said the father, "you are indeed of age to act for yourself, but unless the old scamp will tell you the 'art and the mystery,' I shall never consent to let you go another step with him."

That day the parents called upon the boss, and reminded him of his promise, made long ago, to reveal to their son the "art and the mystery" of the tailor's trade. "I have forgotten all about it," said he, "but I'll tell you." "No," said he, "tell my son, I am not qualified to appreciate it" "Yes you are," said the boss. "The art is to get the money, and the mystery is to keep it."

Moral—Men do not always get what they bargain for. CYPRAX.

A Michigan man has struck a paint mine.

Kansas City is to have a $100,000 opera house.

Louisville is to become a port of entry, October 1.

Secretary Cox has left Washington for a fortnight's vacation.

A lodge of colored Masons has just been organized at Orange, N. J.

Hotel Life in the Adirondacks.

From Bloomingdale until within two miles of Paul Smith's the farms were much improved, and the houses nearly all frame. Then our club struck into what bore some resemblance to a wild country. The forest was dense, there were deer tracks across the beds of the brooks, blue jays and squirrels screamed and chattered in the woods, and an eagle sailed leisurely across the blue rift above their heads. It was eventide, and the wayfarers watched eagerly through the openings for the first glimmer of the sunset seen upon the bosom of St. Regis. Presently the glorious, inspiring bay of hounds fell musically and mellow upon the ear, the sound of a chopper was heard near at hand, small dogs barked a falsetto accompaniment, old wagons, woodpiles, and other evidences of civilization hove in sight, and in a few moments a turn in the road brought the hotel and the lake simultaneously into view. A minute more and the Club was shaking the kinks out of his legs on the long piazza at Paul Smith's

A numerous and motley crowd gathered around to greet or survey the newcomers. Tipstaff inquired for the landlord.

Paul said, "Here!"

He reported an abundance to eat, but no beds. Was the piazza pre-empted? "Yes—every individual plank." No room on the lawn? "That was occupied, too, by dwellers in tents." The boat-house, bowling-alley, barn, out-buildings? "All were full." Hat-racks and clothes-hooks in use? "Yes." Tipstaff inquired for Spalding's glue. The landlord had some. How could he accommodate the guests? He would do everything in his power. He had already succeeded in making the house hold twice its capacity. "Then," said Tipstaff, "you will have not the slightest difficulty in sticking us up against the wall for the night. Consider these clapboards engaged by the Club."

A volley of cheers followed this sally, and the Club became favorites at once. Several ladies offered their extra trunks for lodging. It was astonishing what multitudes of trunks there were—likewise guns, rifles, fishing-rods, creels, landing-nets, knapsacks, rubber over-coats, oil-cloth suits, casts of flies, patent mosquito-nets, water-proof boots, self-acting pocket pistols, meerschaums, and the like —standing in corners, hung on pegs on the doorposts and walls, and lying around loose generally. Strings of sick fish were laid out on the porch for the inspection of dogs and guests. Wooden models of big trout that had been caught in days bygone were stuck up conspicuously, with the date of the achievemtnt and the name of the achiever. The guests, too, were a motley crowd. It being after the regular supper hour, they swarmed upon the piazza and lawn, and the Club had full opportunity to survey the wonderous scene. There were dames in longitudinal trails, who promenaded luxuriantly; maidens in full-fledged paniers; snobs with canes and eye-glasses, strutting in intensest agony of self-conceit; professional sportsmen in fishing-suits of approved material and cut; excursion parties in bush-worn habiliments, just returned from far-off woods and lakes; invalids in flannel wraps and big easy-chairs; old gents in Panamas and homespun, who read the latest papers; young gents who played euchre and sipped their claret per last arrival; nurses with fat babies; ubiquitous boys in short frocks, who rubbed molasses taffy on every body's clothes; and petite little misses in starch and furbelows, who minced, and smirked, and carried on imitation flirtations with children of larger growth. Then there were games of croquet upon the lawn, boating parties upon the lake, lovers sauntering in the woods, and a Chickering thrumming in the parlor. Down at the boat-house a party of incipient but now self-approved anglers, who had passed their first fortnight in camp, were discussing theoretical points with the guides, and a couple of bad boys were trying to set the hounds to fighting on the lawn.

This was the "St. James of the Wilderness." It was astonishing how three hundred guests could put up so cheerfully and harmoniously with accommodations designed for only seventy-five! It was a "happy family."—CHARLES HALLOCK, in *Harper's Magazine for August.*

HARD WATER FOR DRINKING PURPOSES.—Dr. Letheby, in an article on the water supply of London, states that water of moderate hardness, like that used in London, Paris, Vienna, and some other European cities, is always to be preferred to that which is entirely soft, as being best suited for domestic purposes, on account of being brighter to the eye and more agreeable to the taste. He also makes the singular announcement that the French authorities are so well satisfied of the superiority of hard water that they pass by that of the sandy plains, near Paris, go far away to the chalk hills of Champagine, where they find water even harder than that of London; giving as a reason for the preferance that more of the conscripts from the soft-water districts are rejected, on account of the want of strength of muscle, than from the hard-water districts, from which they conclude that the calcareous matter is favorable to the formation of the tissues.

Dr. Letheby further states that the mortality in England is greater, on an average, in places where soft water is used other circumstances being equal, than where the water is hard; and it is suggested that the sparkling hard waters of the limestone districts are relished, not only because they are pleasant to the eye, but on account of some hygienic properties in the excess of carbonic acid they contain, and possibly because the percentage of lime acts medically upon the system. The Doctor concludes by expressing his preference for the very slightly hard water of London over a softer quality, although reprehending the use of water containing an excess of mineral matters.

AN INDIGNANT COLORED DEACON.—