

Typewritten.

Copy of Letter from Dr. G. Adami.  
to W. O.

Museum,  
4470.

Pembroke House,  
133, Oxford Street.

May 31st, 1917.

Dear Sir William,

I observed in your delightful Fothergillian Oration the other evening that you spoke doubtfully regarding the early European history of syphilis.

Is there any clear cut evidence that the presence of this disease in Europe prior to 1494, or of any bones that are indubitably medieaval which exhibit the lesions? I came across a skull at Hythe the other day in the Crypt, which I should take to exhibit a bony gumma, but on enquiry I find there is no authority for describing all the collection from close on 4000 bodies to some time antecedent to 1500, it may have been that they only stopped moving the bodies out of the Churchyard at the time of the Reformation or a little later. I gather rather also, in the discussion at the Society of Medicine some three years ago, that the consensus of opinion there was in favour of origin after 1492.

Yours ever,

J. G. A.

Sir William Osler, Bart.,  
13, Norham Gardens,  
Oxford.