

Ancient Japan.

INTERESTING INVESTIGATIONS BY A SCOTCH SCIENTIST.

Dr. N. Gordon Munro, a famous Scotch surgeon and scientist, of Yokohama, has arrived in San Francisco.

The doctor makes the interesting statement that the baths of Kusatsu, strongly mineralised springs in Japan, are effecting some cures of leprosy. There is a considerable amount of the dread disease in Japan, and he says the Government is taking hold of the problem with a strong hand.

In his opinion there is no question that the bacillus of leprosy has been found, and that it very closely resembles the bacillus of tuberculosis.

Dr. Munro says that the 17,000 people of the hairy Ainu race in Japan are the survivors of the country's primitive or aboriginal race. The present Japanese people he avers, are the product of seven distinct races, including the Ainu. The remnant of the Ainu race lives on the southern half of Saghalien Island, and the islands of Yezo and Kurile. Under the influence of the Japanese, they have abandoned stone implements and pottery, and while ignorant, are highly moral.

The doctor has much of interest to say about the Japanese dolmans or megalithic sepuehral monuments. He believes they are the finest in the world, representing a phase of mind

senting a phase of mind equal to that which produced the pyramids of Egypt. Many of them have corridors 50ft. long, and they are always located in mounds. He says he has found that the iron age in Japan goes back to 500 B.C., and that one of the dolmans and mounds of that period has a circumference of two miles. He has written much about the country's ancient coins and says the orientation of Japanese tombs and monuments, or how they face the sun and stars, the meaning of their position, and how the declination of the stars has changed towards many of these

monuments in 2000 years, is a most fascinating study.