Cambridge Sept. 25th 1800 —

7

Dear Sir

On my return from Dracut whether I went to inoculate, or rather to set the business going I found your letter, and have taken the first leisure to answer it.

I confess I have been disappointed, and have hardly known how to act, since I have been informed that you are going on alone without any of the old established practitioners. To give you, a young man, a stranger this matter to the exclusion of these old physicians is not altogether pleasing to my feelings, independent of my interest. I should, therefore like that you should be connected with some of them, lest some of them should think hard of me. I, nevertheless send you the matter, altho it is very different from my first view of the business. I included Dover, merely because I was informed that Dr. Cutler (who I supposed was to be connected with you) had considerable practice there. Had you have taken

taken a ride up to Cambridge, we could have come to a perfect understanding, wch it is almost impossible to do by letter, more especially in my constant hurry. I shall therefore make no objection to the bond you signed excepting the changing of the first of Sepr. to the 1st of October, because when the first period was mentioned I had in view an expectation that Dr. C. his son & yourself would inoculate Portsmouth and its adjoining towns, wch would most certainly have made a material difference to me. I have had 150 dollars for a district not containing more inhabitants than Kittery, and the contract I made with Dr. S. Hunney the Bassetts &c was for three seasons. They wished very much for Portsmouth &c. but I told them I was under a fort promise to Drs Cutter & yourself, and they said no more about it. Had I known that you were to go alone in the business, I should have bargained with you for a specific sum. I reserved from my engagement before mentioned a certain district round Hanover & so down the river.—

Young Dr. Manning has the matter, and will be as close with it as any of you by what he says to me by letter. I send you as much thread as I can. from England Yours

B Waterhouse

P. S. I take it for granted that you are not going to quit Portsmouth to go up to Dartmouth College this season, for the business should be entered into directly & unremittingly pursued in order to effect any thing capital. As I do not feel quite satisfied at having my hands tied from supplying those old established practitioners among you, I again repeat that I hope you will contrive it so as to admit them and thereby extend the practice through Portsmouth & its neighbourhood remembering always to date from the first of October instead of the first of Sep.r — I have no doubt but the inoculation will do very well all through the winter. I mean at least to try it. You must be very attentive to collecting matter from the arm for I cannot supply more than the first thread

Procure the Mercury of 26th inst. & republish the piece in it, on the Cow-pox in your News-papers.

Dr. Charlotte
Rec'd Sept. 29 72

20

Dr. Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth

BOSTON

Wm Spalding
postage

Cambridge Oct. 12th 1809

8.

Dear Sir

I write immediately to inform you that you must take the matter from the inoculated part, in its limpid state before purulency comes on,* and never from the pustules which very rarely occur. I find great difficulty in procuring matter for my own inoculation.

I have had applications from Portsmouth and from its neighborhood, and do most strenously recommend that you offer the matter to Drs Brackett & Cutter. With their assistance you will make it more profitable to yourself as well as tome I never was you know satisfied with our bargain, and I never shall be unless these old established practitioners are included.

Dr Jackson has not the matter. He applied to me for it last week. He brought some, but it failed. In haste I am &c

B. Waterhouse

*. about 9th or 10th day

The Lancette Bringing on the vaccine

Dr Benj. Waterhouse
Cambridge
Rec'd Oct 13th

B. Waterhouse
Oct. 13

10

25

BOSTON

Dr Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
N. Hampshire

Cambridge Dec. 10th 1809

9

Dear Sir

Did you know what a multitude of letters I daily receive & how much my time is engrossed you would not wonder that I am a forgetful correspondent.

Had you acceded to my ~~offer~~ proposal at the beginning viz to have come to Cambridge as several others did you would have seen the cases you wish, have known the disorder & the mode of managing it. It would require many sheets of writing to designate every criterion, and it is not in my power to answer with requisite precision every correspondent. I shall therefore publish again on the subject. Hundreds have been & still are inoculating with spurious matter, that is matter that has been good but degenerated, or not taken at the proper time. I have hoped inoculating myself. I expect to receive fresh matter from England every 4 weeks for a year to come after next March. The vaccine matter appears to me to be nearly worn out in this country. I shall publish something in the course of a week or two —

Yours truly

Benj. Waterhouse

Can you send me Dr. Bartlett's description of the kine-pox?

10

Rec'd Dec. 20 1847

Dr. B. Waterhouse

Dr. B. Waterhouse
Boston

Dec 20

19
DEC 22

L. Lyman Spalding

Coventry

BOSTON

N. Hampshire

Cambridge Decr. 7th 1801.

Dear Sir

10

As I expect shortly to publish a report of the progress of the vaccine inoculation during 1801. I could wish to have a more particular account of the persons you have tested with the S. pox than has yet appeared. I wish to know not only the numbers but if you have no objection, the names & the circumstances of their trial of the S. pox, how long they remained with the infected patient, the appearance of the inoculated part, &c. &c. I have a number of other cases I wish to bring forward with it, and wish to have every fact as clearly stated as may be. I have not had six spurious cases the whole season & my cases are at this moment as perfect as those I first commenced with. — Did you see the case of Dr. Fay in the Ind.t Chronicle of about a fortnight past?

Your's truly

B. Waterhouse

Dr. Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
New: Hampshire

Dr. Alexander Spalding
Cornwall
Conn.

Cambridge March 18th 1802

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 11th instant came duly to hand, and I have endeavoured to comply with your request so far as to send you some matter on the point of a quill. as to the thread it is full a month old, but was from a very perfect case and has been kept in a proper degree of temperature ever since. I am now, so in the habit of taking the vaccine fluid from arm to arm that I am not so constant in preserving it on thread or otherwise — Considerable attention & patience are required in the first use of an old thread. It ought always to be moistened with the vapor of hot water —

You mention my not having answered your last letter — I have received no letter from you since you wrote to me in answer to one of mine. I received a printed bill of mortality 5, or 6 weeks ago but no written line whatever with it; and I have had no letter from you for 4, 5, or perhaps 6 months past. —

I have just received "Observations on the low pox by D Jeffson". I shall probably publish a second pamphlet in a month or so, being practical observations &c. In the mean time I have sent a few to the Medical Repository for their next number.

I am

I am glad to find that you attend to the ~~bally~~ occurrency of mortality. Excuse me for making a few remarks on the one you was so obliging as to send to me.

1st Did aphthæ kill the infant, or was it a symptom of another disorder. or in other words was it symptomatic or idiopathic?

2dly We very rarely see consumption in patients above 50 years of age, more rarely above 60, and very rare indeed at 70. There is a chronic cough & emaciation and great expectoration in old people, but it is not the true phthisis pulmonalis

3dly Is not Debauchery rather a vague term for a generic head. Doesn't mean drunkenness exclusively?

4th I never yet saw a very young child with Epilepsy. There is a wide space indeed between the convulsions of infants, & that truly wonderful disease Epilepsy!

5th Mortification. Was it in the bowels, or the feet? as they are widely different in their cause. see Pot. on the latter)

6th Death from Scrophula very uncommon. It predisposes to fatal diseases —

7th Paregoric? does that mean the child was poisoned by that composition. If so had it not better been by Opium - as paregoric means a mitigator?

You will excuse these hasty observations that occurred on the perusal. They have not originated from a disposition to criticise but from a desire to have them free from every exception. Yours steadily

B. Waterhouse

POSTO[illegible]
MAR 1[illegible]

Dr Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
New-Hampshire

Dr Wm Coleman
Cambridge

Cambridge June 8th 1842
12

Dear Sir

Some months ago I received a box containing some good salt fish, but having no line nor any direction whatever with it, I was at loss to know whence, or from whom it came, until Mr. Bartlett informed me not long since that it was sent to his care from you. I am "disposed" to return thanks & ask a continuance of the like mercies, "when I know to whom I must address them. I suspect some letter was sent by a private hand which never reached me.

Two years ago I inoculated Mr. Smith, originally of Portsmouth, & who lately removed from Boston to your town again; but her case was spurious. I called to reinoculate her the very day after she left Boston. I write this therefore, to ask you to call upon her, and to ask her if she is willing that you should re-inoculate her, and if she prefers it, I will send some matter for that purpose. Although her symptoms were very violent

violent, and her arm very sore, her disorder was of the spurious kind. If she therefore wishes it, I will thank you to vaccinate her for me.
The credit of the vaccine vaccination is advancing and maintaining its credit among us, in spite of the vile tricks to impede it
I am with esteem yours &c -

Benjamin Waterhouse

D L. Spalding -

Dr. B. Waterhouse

BOSTON, MA
SEP 19

Dr. Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
N. H.