Cambridge 19th. July. 1802

13

Dear Sir

Accept my thanks for the printed account of your second experiment respecting the prophylactic power of the Vine pock*. I thought it would conduce to good to give it to the public through the Centinel. I wrote a few lines on the same paper to the printer personally, which he also printed & meant to publish in the Centinel this week. A piece on the absurd notion, how industriously disseminated that the Vine pock will only secure a person for a short time. Perhaps it would answer a good purpose among you to have it copied into one of your Portsmouth papers, for this doctrine is spreading fast & wide, & discourages inoculating.

The Mrs Smith I wrote to you about inoculating is the mother of William P. Smith, and as he has lately been unfortunate I could wish not to be lacking in attention to her, or him who employed me. Will you please to tell her that I called at her house the day after she left Boston, and finding she was gone had desired you to call on her in my behalf. If I can reciprocate this service, please to command your humble servt.

Benjn Waterhouse

* i.e. the inoculation of the Vine pock, being a mere variety of the Cow pock.

BOSTON. MASS.
JUL 17
18

10

Dr. Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
New Hampshire

Dr. Wm. Wallcut

Extract of a Letter from Dr. JENNER, dated

LONDON, *February* 24, 1802.

"THE moſt arduous taſk I have lately had to perform, has been making Practitioners ſenſible of the *abſolute neceſſity* of attending to the QUALITY of the *virus* employed. You will receive with this ſome Rules compreſſed into a ſmall ſpace."

They are theſe which follow :

INSTRUCTIONS FOR

Vaccine Inoculation.

LET the vaccine fluid be taken, for the purpoſe of Inoculation, from a puſtule that is making its progreſs regularly, and which poſſeſſes the true vaccine character, on any day from the fifth to the eighth, or even a day or two later, provided the efflorescence be not then formed around it. When the efflorescence is formed, it is always moſt prudent to deſiſt from taking any more of the virus from that puſtule.

To obtain the virus, let the edges of the puſtule be gently punctured with a lancet in ſeveral points. It will gradually ooze out, and ſhould be inſerted upon the arm about midway between the ſhoulder and the elbow, by means of a very ſmall oblique puncture. A little red ſpot will appear on the punctured part on the third day, if the operation ſucceed, which on the fourth or fifth becomes perceptibly veſicated. It goes on increaſing 'till the tenth day, when it is generally ſurrounded by a roſe-coloured efflorescence, which remains nearly ſtationary for a day or two. The efflorescence then fades away, and the puſtule is gradually converted into a hard gloſſy ſcab, of a dark mahogany colour. Theſe progreſſive ſtages of the puſtule, are commonly compleated in ſixteen or ſeventeen days.

A ſingle puſtule is ſufficient to ſecure the conſtitution from the ſmall-pox ; but as we are not always certain the puncture may take effect, it will be prudent to inoculate in both arms, or to make two punctures in the ſame arm, about an inch and a half aſunder, except in very early infancy, when there is a great ſuſceptibility of local irritation.

If the efflorescence ſurrounding the puſtule ſhould be extenſive, and occaſion much local heat upon the arm, it may be cooled by the repeated application of pieces of folded linnen dipped in cold water ; or ſtill more expeditiouſly by a ſtrong ſolution of the *aqua lythargyri acetati** in water ; an ounce, for example, of the former in five or ſix of the latter. If the ſcab ſhould at any time be prematurely rubbed off, the part may be occaſionally touched with the undiluted *aqua lythargyri acetati.*

Vaccine virus, taken from a puſtule, and inſerted immediately in its fluid ſtate, is preferable to that which has been previouſly dried ; but as it is not always practicable to obtain it in this ſtate, we are compelled to ſeek for ſome mode of preſerving it. Various means have been ſuggeſted, but from the teſt of long experience it may be aſſerted, that preſerving it between two plates of glaſs is the moſt eligible. Let a piece of common window glaſs be cut into ſquares of about an inch each, ſo that they ſhall lie ſmooth when placed upon each other. Let the collected vaccine fluid be confined to a ſmall ſpot (about the ſize of a ſplit pea) upon the centre of one of theſe glaſſes ; which ſhould be ſuffered to dry in the common heat of the atmoſphere, without expoſure to the heat of fire or the ſun. When dry it ſhould be immediately ſecured by placing over it the other piece of glaſs. Nothing more is neceſſary for its preſervation than wrapping it in clean writing paper.

The virus, thus preſerved, when wanted for the purpoſe of inoculation, may eaſily be reſtored to its fluid ſtate by diſſolving it in a ſmall portion of cold water, taken up on the point of a lancet. It may then be uſed in the ſame manner as when juſt taken from a puſtule.

The vaccine fluid is liable, from cauſes apparently trifling, to undergo a decompoſition. In this ſtate it ſometimes produces what has been denominated the ſpurious puſtule ; that is, a puſtule, or an appearance on the arm not poſſeſſing the characteriſtic marks of the genuine puſtule. Anomalies, aſſuming different forms, may be excited, according to the qualities of the virus applied, or the ſtate of the perſon inoculated ; but by far the moſt frequent variety, or deviation from the perfect puſtule, is that which arrives at maturity, and finiſhes its progreſs much within the time limited by the true. Its commencement is marked by a troubleſome itching ; and it throws out a premature efflorescence, ſometimes extenſive, but ſeldom circumſcribed, or of ſo vivid a tint as that which ſurrounds the puſtule completely organized ; and (which is more characteriſtic of its degeneracy than the other ſymptoms) it appears more like a common feſtering produced by a thorn, or any other ſmall extraneous body ſticking in the ſkin, than a puſtule excited by the vaccine virus. It is generally of a ſtraw colour ; and when punctured, inſtead of that colourleſs, tranſparent fluid of the perfect puſtule, its contents are found to be opaque.† That deviation from the common character of the puſtule, ariſing from vaccine virus which has been previouſly expoſed to a degree of heat capable of decompoſing it, is very different. In this inſtance, it begins with a creeping ſcab, of a pale brown or amber colour ; making a long and ſlow progreſs, and ſometimes going through its courſe without any perceptible efflorescence. Its edges are commonly elevated, and afford, on being punctured, a limpid fluid.

A little practice in vaccine inoculation, attentively conducted, impreſſes on the mind the perfect character of the vaccine puſtule ; therefore, when a deviation ariſes, of whatever kind it may be, common prudence points out the neceſſity of re-inoculation, firſt, with vaccine virus of the moſt active kind, and ſecondly, ſhould this be ineffectual, with variolous virus. But if the conſtitution ſhews an inſuſceptibility of one, it commonly does of the other.

If the effluvia of the ſmall-pox have been received into the habit previouſly to the inoculation of the vaccine virus, the vaccine inoculation will not always be found to ſtop its progreſs, although the puſtule may make its advances without interuption. The lancet uſed for inoculation ſhould always be perfectly clean. After each puncture, it is proper to dip it into water, and wipe it dry. The preſervation of vaccine virus upon a lancet, beyond the period of a few days, ſhould never be attempted ; as it is ſo apt to produce ruſt, which will decompoſe it.

* Goulard's extract of Saturn.

† YELLOW matter is always ſpurious.

I have only time to enclose
you this fresh infected lancet
(Sunday noon Nov.r 21 5)

B Waterhouse

Let the fish be accompanied
by a line like put directly in the
post office forme, when I will send
for it from the coast.

BOSTON. N.E.
NOV 27

20

D. Lyman Spaulding
Portsmouth
N. Hampshire

Exchange

Cambridge 2d. Nov.r 1816

17.

Dear Sir,

The bearer of this Mr Wait is a respectable Printer & Bookseller in Boston; He informs me he is about printing a new edition of Thacher's Dispensatory, and, if I mistake not, another work by the same author. Whatever it may be, my respect for Dr Thacher & Mr Wait, and the desire of promoting useful publications, induce me to recommend the latter to your notice & confidence. I conceive that Dr Thacher & you can benefit each other in your respective publications, and this is one of the reasons of my giving Mr Wait this letter of introduction to you.

My family, such as it is, remain of it, desire to be remembered to you, & yours. I correspond, as you know, more with medical men at a distance than with those near home. To hear of your health & prosperity will always give pleasure to your friend & humble Serv.t

Benj.n Waterhouse

Dr Lyman Spalding
New York

Arrived 29 Dec.r

Dr Waterhouse

1.01 2 sh 8

Cambridge July 22d. 1807.

16

Dear Sir

I thank you for your communication respecting the long life of the scab. I have found the scab to communicate the true disease two months after it was taken from the arm. It seems to be the christalline state of the matter; but I have thought or conceited that it occasioned more inflammation in the pustule produced.

I would thank you to send me some of the matter on a quill enclosed in a letter, that has been produced by the scab in question. I should like to compare it with some taken at the usual period. I am in the habit of preserving scabs, but never use them, when I can obtain fresh limpid matter — If you could send me a couple of quills by the return of post you will oblige

Your Obd & Humble Servt

Benj W Waterhouse

Dr Spalding —

Dr Lyman Spalding

Portsmouth

New Hampshire

Dr Mathews

B NS a 10.1

15

Dr. Sir

Agreeably to your request I here enclose some more fresh vaccine matter which was taken from a child on the 8th day ~~after~~ from Vaccination & is not more than 20 hours old —

My late publication has at least set the history of the practice in America in its true point of light & corrected several ill grounded notions —

I am Sir Yours &c

Benj. Waterhouse

April 22d. 1803

1.01 o 5 4 2

NEW-YORK
APR 24

Dr Lyman Spalding
Portsmouth
N. Hampshire

Dr Lyman Spalding

Cambridge Nov. 4th 1802

14

Dear Sir

Agreeably to your request, I have enclose a small portion of matter. I cannot send more, at this time, having just sent some to Philadelphia, where it is extend. I have just received a similar request from New York where it is also extend! and I have reason to think there is none in Boston, my own cases excepted!! Neither it seems is there any at Portsmouth!!! How can practitioners be so inattentive. I am obliged to have children & others to be inoculated in Cambridge in order to keep up a continuity of the matter. — I have just received some ox quills from Mr. Ring. Dr Jenner has just sent me some in a silver box. inlaid with gold of exquisite workmanship with a complimentary inscription by Mr Ring — You will find on reading Coxe that he has published in haste. He sent me the work in sheets

I sent ~~them~~ then the coloured engraving of the pustule in all its stages, contrasted with Spot x. He has you see copied it, but it falls vastly short of the original. Dr Coxe has just written home for a fresh supply of matter. In haste I remain

Yours &c

B Waterhouse

P. S. If you could procure me another quantat of such fish as you sent me last autumn, you & Burle settle the amount of it when we meet next, or before by sending the the bill of it. ——— We can get the ordinary fish in Boston, but the best kind of large fish is not easy to be found ——— Our exp^t. stagnates for want of Spox matter.

BOSTON MS
NOV

Dr Lyman Spalding

Portsmouth

New-Hampshire

P. Mathews

1.10 c 5/12