

Cow-pock inoculation : The following facts are laid before the public for the encouragement of those, who entertain any doubt respecting the efficacy and success of vaccine inoculation ... / [John Theodore Archibald Reed].

Contributors

Reed, John Theodore Archibald.

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

COW-POCK INOCULATION.

The following Facts are laid before the Public for the Encouragement of those, who entertain any doubt

RESPECTING THE

EFFICACY AND SUCCESS

OF

VACCINE INOCULATION:

And to confirm others in their good opinion of

THAT INESTIMABLE BLESSING.

IN March, 1800, having previously informed myself of the safety and efficacy of the Cow-Pock, I began to inoculate my two Parishes *Leckhamstead* and *Akely*, near *Buckingham*. I was induced to do this *at that particular time*, because the Grand Junction Canal was in its progress to my immediate neighbourhood, which, like every other great work employing vast bodies of men from distant quarters, would probably introduce the Small-Pox. It was my wish, that the Labourers of these Parishes should have the benefit of the high wages given on such occasions, without being exposed to the danger of that dreadful pestilence.

Having been in the habit of administering medicines to the poor, my offer to inoculate them was very generally accepted; and especially as most of these people are employed in milking. The common answer of such persons to my proposal was, "*We all know that nobody*" **EVER DIED OF THE COW-POCK, and we all know that**



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"nobody EVER HAD THE SMALL-POX after it: But
"what an odd thing it is, that any body should think of
"INOCULATING with it!"

For my part I thought it very odd, these two facts being so generally known, that no one should have attempted it sooner.

I had no intention of proceeding in this practice beyond my own Parishes; but I was soon applied to by a clergyman, to whom I have been more than twenty years curate, to inoculate at *Greens-Norton*, near *Towcester*, the Small-Pox having broke out in two Families. I readily consented on condition that he would prepare the minds of the people, to whom I was but little known. In this he met with opposition, and in the result, about *Five Hundred* persons were inoculated with the *Small-Pox*, and *Twenty-Eight* by me, with the Cow-Pock.

I started the same day as the hired Inoculator. On the eighth I inspected the parties, and finding that they were all decidedly infected with the Cow-Pock, I desired them to give what assistance they could to the people, who were falling very fast with the *Small-Pox*, and in great distress for Nurses; *Two Hundred*, at one time, being in a helpless condition. Of these *Twenty Eight* Patients of mine, many slept with *Small-Pox* patients, and even with some, who died in a most dreadful condition.

The neighbouring Villages were satisfied with this test, and in the following month I inoculated more than *One Thousand* Persons, who were apprehensive, that a very great fair at *Towcester* on old May-day, would spread the *Small-Pox* over the whole surrounding Country.

On the application of Clergymen and other respectable Inhabitants, I have inoculated, within ten miles of my residence, upwards of *Four Thousand Seven Hundred* Persons, many in situations greatly exposed to infection.

In the Autumn, 1804, the *Small-Pox* raging among the people employed at the tunnel of the Grand Junction Canal, I inoculated in the neighbouring towns of *Stoke-Bruern*, *Shuttlehanger*, and *Paulerspury*, *Five Hundred and Seventy*. In the Summer of 1805, I inoculated *Two*



Hundred and Seventy at Potterspury, the Small-Pox being at that time in two houses in the Village.

In the whole of my practice I have inflexibly avoided accepting any fee or present, except in two instances, where I had no choice. I am therefore not to be treated otherwise than as an independent evidence. In that character I make the following declarations:—

1st. After a practice of more than six years, no instance has occurred of any one inoculated by me, being afterwards infected with the *Small-Pox*.

2dly. I never, during that period, have seen a single arm that required surgical assistance, or any other dressing further than a little oil, or milk and water.

3dly. I never knew an instance of a life being endangered, or a taint left in the constitution by the Cow-Pock. On the contrary, I can produce persons who date a period of health, unknown before, from the turn of the Cow-Pock: the disease having apparently a tendency to cleanse the constitution.

If any candid person wishes to be more fully informed, let him devote a fortnight to the full investigation of this statement *on the spot*; I promise him the use of my lists, and recommendations to fit persons in every parish where I have set my foot: and this is the only method I propose of supporting the above assertions; as local benefit to my neighbours, and not public fame and emolument, has been the object of

Nov. 8th, 1806.

J. T. A. REED,

Curate of Leckhamstead and Akeley,

P. S. Two Thousand Copies of the above Report, were printed and distributed at the earnest request of a most eminent and excellent medical person, now deceased, (Mr. Sharpe, of Fulham,) at a time when the Cow-Pock practice was violently controverted, and a further investigation was expected in Parliament. It was soon after published by two Bishops, to whom it had been submitted, in the Oxford and Cambridge newspapers;

and since in a variety of periodical works, by persons unknown to me. The invitation contained in the last clause, has never been accepted, but is still open. I have since inoculated at least Two Thousand; a considerable part of them last Winter, when the Small-Pox was spreading extensively, and at the same time particularly virulent. Thousands of people were exposed to it, who had been inoculated by me in the last ten years. None of them received the infection, none of them ever expressed to me the least apprehension on the subject, or a desire to repeat the operation; and as to the groups of people, who at that time, came to me almost daily, the affair was a subject of merriment, rather than alarm; as they were aware that the puncture would be almost insensible, the suffering from the disease very light and short; and as to distant ill effects on the constitution, nothing of the kind has ever been experienced here.

J. T. A. REED,

Curate of Leckhamstead and Akeley.

Sept. 28th, 1810.

J. Seeley, Printer, Buckingham.