

**An inquiry into the merits of a method of inoculating the small-pox, which is now practised in several counties of England / By George Baker.**

**Contributors**

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A N  
I N Q U I R Y  
Into the M E R I T S of a  
M E T H O D O F I N O C U L A T I N G  
T H E  
S M A L L - P O X,

Which is now practised in several Counties of  
E N G L A N D.

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By G E O R G E B A K E R, M.D. F.R.S.  
And Physician to H E R M A J E S T Y ' s H o u s h o l d.

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L O N D O N :  
Printed for J. D O D S L E Y, in Pall-Mall.  
M D C C L X V I.

A N  
I N Q U I R Y

into the MERITS of a  
METHOD of INOCULATING  
THE  
SMALL-POX,

Which is now practised in several Countries  
ENGLAND.

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GEORGE BAKER, M.D. F.R.S.  
And Physician to Her Majesty's Household.

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L O N D O N :  
Printed for J. Dodgery, in Pall-Mall.  
MDCCLXXI.



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TO THE  
READER.

*I* T was not untill very lately, that the *Writer* of these few pages had any intention of appearing in print on the present subject. He had made an inquiry concerning the method of conducting the process of Inoculation, which is now practised in several counties of England, in order to gratify his curiosity,



## P R E F A C E.

*and in hopes of procuring some information, which might be useful to him as a Physician. But on receiving an account of the ill success, which has lately attended Inoculation at Blandford, it occurred to him, that some benefit might possibly accrue to Mankind, if the Public had an opportunity of comparing the different result of different management; and of judging what method of treating the SMALL-POX, according to the lights which we have at present received, may seem to deserve the preference. With this view, he lays before the Reader a plain narrative of facts; to*

## P R E F A C E.

*which occasionally he has added a few reflections: But he leaves the full conclusion to be drawn from farther observation, and to be established upon more enlarged experience.*



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**H**OW much soever such a reflection may mortify the pride of Men of Science, it cannot but be acknowledged that the Art of Medicine has, in several instances, been greatly indebted to Accident; and that some of its most valuable improvements have been received from the hands of Ignorance and Barbarism. This truth is re-

markably exemplified in the practice of INOCULATION of the SMALL-POX ; a practice which Chance seems to have first suggested ; and of which some poor, unknown, illiterate Woman was probably the original discoverer.

Even in some of the more enlightened countries of Europe this practice has hitherto made but a slow progress ; nay it still meets with a most unreasonable opposition from the obstinacy of prejudiced Men, who have not only employed every plausible argument, but have been guilty of dissingenuousness and misrepresentation, in order to discountenance and suppress it. But it must be mentioned, to



the honour of the Physicians of our country, that very early the most respected part of them became its warm friends ; and that (contrary to a well-known prediction) *they had virtue enough to destroy such a considerable part of their revenue for the good of Mankind.* It reflects honour on their characters, that they measured not its value by the meanness of its origin, but by its real importance and utility ; and that they patronized a barbarous discovery with no less zeal and affection, than if it had been their own. The same laudable spirit, which has so warmly engaged the English Physicians in the cause of Inoculation, ever since its first in-



troduction, will, it is hoped, incline them to hear with patient attention any proposals, from whatever quarter they may come, which may tend to make this practice still easier and still less hazardous. He is an enemy to improvement, and is no Philosopher, who fastidiously, and upon meer speculation, rejects what he has not brought to the test of experiment. One solid practical observation is of more real value, than all the unsupported theories, which the wit of Man ever invented: and it is a precept of Hippocrates, which ought to be held in reverence, ἐκ οὐνέειν παρὰ τῶν Ἰδιωτέων ιστορέειν ἢν τι δοκέει συμφέρον εἰς καιρὸν θεραπείης.

Having heard various and very surprizing accounts of Inoculation, as it is at present practised by several Adventurers in this way, I had been desirous of procuring some satisfactory information with respect to their management and its success. Such an opportunity of information hath lately presented itself to me. A Gentleman, whose accuracy in observing, as well as veracity in relating what he observed, may be relied on, hath favoured me with the following particulars, which he himself collected while his own Child was under Inoculation. I will not however take upon me to answer for this account being, in every part of it, absolutely



perfect. If it be so in the general outlines, it will be sufficient for my purpose; which is principally to shew what advantages in the Small-Pox are derived from a cool regimen and free air, and what dangers may be apprehended from a contrary management.

All persons are obliged to go through a strict preparatory regimen for a fortnight before the operation is performed. During this course, every kind of animal food, milk only excepted, and all fermented liquors and spices are forbidden. Fruit of all sorts is allowed, except only on those days when a purging medicine is taken. In this fortnight of preparation a dose



of a powder is ordered to be taken, at bed-time, three several times; and on the following mornings a dose of purging salt. To Children only three doses of the powder are given, without any purging salt. The composition of this powder is industriously kept a secret. But that it consists partly of a mercurial preparation, is demonstrated by its having made the gums of several People sore, and even salivated others.

The months of May, June, July, and August are preferred as the most seasonable for Inoculation. But healthy People are inoculated at any season of the year indifferently. The Autumn is held to be the worst

season ; and an aguish habit the least proper for this operation. No objection is made to any one on account of what is vulgarly called a scorbutic habit of body, or bad blood. The appearance of the blood is not looked upon to be of any consequence, or to be a certain criterion of a good or bad state of health.

The Person, who is to be inoculated, on his arrival at the house, used for this purpose, is carried into a public room, where very probably he may meet a large company assembled, under the several stages of the Small-Pox. The Operator then opens a pustule of one of the company, chusing one where the mat-



ter is in a crude state; and then just raises up the cuticle on the outer part of the arm, where it is thickest, with his moist lancet. This done, he only presses down the raised cuticle with his finger, and applies neither plaster, nor bandage. What is extremely remarkable, he frequently inoculates people with the *moisture* taken from the arm before the eruption of the Small-Pox, nay within four days after the operation has been performed. And, I am informed, at present he gives the preference to this method. He has attempted to inoculate by means of the blood; but without success. If the Operator happeneth not to be at home when the new Patient ar-



riveth, this is looked upon as a matter of no importance. And so far is he from any apprehension of accumulating infection, that it is very common for persons, just inoculated, to lye in the same bed with a Patient, under any stage of the disease, as it may happen; nay sometimes in a room, where four or five people are sick.

On the night following the operation the Patient takes a Pill. This medicine is repeated every other night, until the fever comes on. All this time moderate exercise in the air is strongly recommended.

In twenty four hours after the Inoculation, the Operator can often distinguish whether or

no the Patient be infected. He every day examines the incision; and from thence seems to prognosticate, with some degree of certainty, concerning the degree of the future disease. In three days after the operation (provided that it has succeeded) there appears on the incision a spot, like a Flea-bite, not as yet above the skin. This spot by degrees rises to a red pimple; and then becomes a bladder full of clear lymph. This advanceth to maturation like the variolous pustules, but is the last which falleth off. In proportion as the discoloration round the place of incision is greater, the less quantity of eruption is expected. And therefore whenever only a small



discoloured circle is observed, purging medicines stronger than ordinary, and more frequently repeated, are held to be necessary. There never is any sore in the arm, or discharge; but constantly and invariably a large pustule.

The preparatory diet is still continued. If the fever remains some hours without any tendency to perspiration, some acid drops are administered, the effect of which is to bring on a profuse sweat. But in some cases, where the fever is very high, a powder, or pill, still more powerful, is given. Indeed while my Friend continued in the house, no such pill or powder was given; and he ne-



ver saw the acid drops administered more than twice. In general during the burning heat of the fever the Inoculator gives cold water. But, the perspiration beginning, he orders warm Baum - Tea, or thin Water-Gruel. As soon as the sweat abates, the eruption having made its first appearance, he obliges every body to get up, to walk about the house, or into the garden. From this time to the turn of the disease he gives milk-gruel *ad libitum*.

On the day following the first appearance of an opake spot on the pustules, to grown people he gives one ounce of Glauber's purging salt. To Children he gives a dose of it proportioned



to their age. Then, if the eruption be small, he allows them to eat a little boiled mutton, and toast and butter, and to drink small beer. But, in case of a large eruption, he gives them, on the third day after their having taken the first dose, another dose of the same salt, and confines them to the diet ordered during the preparation. Imagining this not to be the common practice, my Friend asked why purging physic was given so early. The answer was, that this was done in order to carry off the matter which might appear afterwards in boils, &c.

From April 20, to May 20, between forty and fifty People were inoculated in one house;

every one of whom my Friend saw walking about during the whole time of the disease, except when the eruption was making its first appearance.

The Inoculator wisheth his Patients not to alter their diet above fourteen days before they come to his house; for he thinks that the benefit, arising from preparation, is principally derived from a sudden change of diet, and evacuations suddenly made. He says, he never found any ill effects arise from the Patient being reduced very low; and that generally the lower they are reduced, the more favourable is the disease.

The same Person has several times inoculated the Measles.



This he does by wetting his lancet with the fluid which is apt to flow plentifully in that disease from the corner of the eyes.

What follows is extracted from a letter of a very worthy and sensible, as well as learned Clergyman, who lives in the neighbourhood of the Person, of whose practice I have attempted to give some account.—“ You  
 “ seem to ascribe his success to  
 “ his allowing his Patients a  
 “ free use of air. It is very  
 “ certain, that sufficient air is  
 “ allowed. But the truth is, his  
 “ Patients, in general, are never  
 “ in a situation to require any  
 “ nursing. It is certainly his  
 “ preparation, which disposeth  
 “ the body to receive the infec-

“ tion so slightly. I inclose to  
 “ you the directions which he  
 “ gave for my Children. Four  
 “ days after Inoculation, upon  
 “ finding that the infection had  
 “ taken place, he gave me three  
 “ small Pills for them. The  
 “ youngest took two, but not  
 “ on the same evening; the el-  
 “ dest one. The Pills operated  
 “ on them as a purge; but I  
 “ hear, many find no effect at  
 “ all from them. The eldest  
 “ Child, I imagine, took one  
 “ Pill only for this reason; be-  
 “ cause the several doses of pow-  
 “ der, taken during the prepa-  
 “ ration, had upon her stronger  
 “ effects, than upon the young-  
 “ est. From taking the first  
 “ dose her breath became fetid;



“ her gums looked inflamed,  
 “ and continued so, till she had  
 “ taken purging physic, after  
 “ the disease was at an end.

“ My Children began to com-  
 “ plain on the eighth day. The  
 “ eldest, after one night's slight  
 “ fever, threw out fifteen pus-  
 “ tules. On the next morning  
 “ she was perfectly well, and  
 “ played as usual. The young-  
 “ est had not the eruption quite  
 “ so soon; but went through  
 “ the disease in the same easy  
 “ manner. No confinement,  
 “ even to the house, was requir-  
 “ ed, except during a few hours,  
 “ while the fever continued. A  
 “ Clergyman, aged between for-  
 “ ty and fifty years, was with  
 “ us, and was inoculated at the

“ same time. All his confine-  
 “ ment was during part of one  
 “ day; and that, I believe, not  
 “ thro’ necessity; for in the eve-  
 “ ning I walked with him in the  
 “ fields. All, who follow the  
 “ directions strictly, come off in  
 “ this easy manner. Now and  
 “ then it hath happened, that  
 “ a Patient hath suffered by his  
 “ irregularity, that is, hath had  
 “ a plentiful eruption. But  
 “ danger seems out of the ques-  
 “ tion; and, in ten years prac-  
 “ tice, our Operator hath not  
 “ lost one Patient.”

August 11, 1765,

Since the date of this letter,  
 as I am informed by the same  
 Gentleman, two Persons have



died under the care of this Inoculator; first — Cole, an hard drinker, who had been just cured of an ague, which he had had between five and six months. This he kept a secret. The second was a Lady, who had wilfully neglected every direction; and, among other irregularities, had taken large quantities of spirit of hartshorn during the disease.

What is above written is to be considered as relating only to the practice of one Gentleman. There are, in different parts of the Country, several other Inoculators, some of whom are said to have surpassed this Person in the boldness of their practice. We have heard of Patients, who



have been carried into the fields, while shivering in a *rigor*; of their having been allowed no liquor, except what they have been able to procure for themselves at the pump, while the fever has been upon them; and of their having been indiscriminately exposed to the air, in all sorts of weather and in all seasons, during every period of the eruption. This and more hath been related upon good authority: And indeed it is certain that many thousands of all constitutions and ages, even to that of seventy years, have within these few years been inoculated according to the general method above described; and in general have gone through the disease almost with-



out an unfavourable symptom. According to the best information, which I can procure, about seventeen thousand have been thus inoculated; of which number no more than five or six persons have died.

With respect to preparations of Mercury and Antimony, it must be left to future experience to decide how far they are of importance in the preparatory regimen. Much less can I take upon me to ascertain their effects, when given either in the variolous fever, or after the eruption; in both which cases it is supposed, that a medicine, compounded of Kermes Mineral, and Calomel, is often administered. Perhaps this prac-



tice took its rise from a favourite opinion of Boerhaave, that Mercury and Antimony were antidotes capable of extinguishing the variolous poison; an opinion suggested to him by theory, and never confirmed to him by experiment. However there are several Physicians of credit (and among the rest Dr. Andrew of Exeter) who do insist strenuously on the good effects of Calomel, given before Inoculation:  
 \* And it appears, on the autho-

\* Dr. Rosen, in the acts of the Academy of Sciences in Sweden, for the year 1751, published a medicine used by him with a view to prevent the confluent Small-Pox in Children, or at least to mitigate their violence. This he calls his preservative Pills. They are made as follows.  $\mathcal{R}$  Calomel. *rite præparat.* Extract. Aloës Aquos.



rity of Dr. Huxham, that Dr. Benjamin Gale, of Connecticut in New England, since he has given Mercury and Antimony in preparing Persons for Inoculation, has lost only one Patient out of eight hundred inoculated; whereas before he gave this medicine, he usually lost one Patient out of one hundred. But

ā gr. xv. Resin. Guaiac. gr. xxv. m. f. Pilulæ pond. gr. ij. In the four or five first weeks, these Pills are to be taken twice each week in the evening. He generally gives three Pills to Children of two years; four to those of three years; six to those of five years. To Children from the age of two to nine years, he prescribes these Pills; and asserts that not the least inconvenience has been perceived by those, who have taken them for two or three months. This medicine is not to be any longer taken, after signs of the Small-Pox have appeared.



there are others, who having prepared their Patients, some of them with, and some without Mercury, seem not to be satisfied that any real advantage is gained by it. That, in particular cases, it may be very proper, can admit of no doubt. Where foulness of bowels or worms are suspected, Calomel is likely to be the best purge: But every Physician must have observed certain constitutional antipathies with respect to Mercury. That, in general, two or three doses of some purging medicine ought to be given, almost all Inoculators have agreed: And it was observed by Sydenham, “ that repeated purging, before  
“ the infection, for the most part



“ rendered the subsequent Small-  
“ Pox of a mild and distinct  
“ kind.”

M. Gatti, who, some time ago, was much employed in Inoculation at Paris, declares himself an enemy to any general plan of preparation. In all the Levant, says he, where the natural Small-Pox is as fatal as elsewhere, and where you may find old Women, who have inoculated ten thousand People without an accident, the only inquiry is whether or no a Person is prepared by Nature. All that is considered, is, whether the breath be sweet; the skin soft; and whether a little wound in it heals easily. Whenever these conditions are found, they



inoculate without the least apprehension of danger. What is said by M. Gatti of the absurdity of laying down any general uniform rules of preparation, without regard to the difference of age or constitution, does appear to be founded on reason. And yet it is certain, that our Adventurers, who always give the same medicine, only proportioning the dose to the age, may look on themselves as justified by their success. Persons, the most free from diseases, are the properest subjects for inoculation. But high health is apt to border on disease; and undoubtedly high health is not the state, which one would prefer for the reception of a disease, in



which men of the strongest habit are often the greatest sufferers. Upon the whole, were it necessary to lay down on this subject any general direction, it would seem safer to follow these Gentlemen in their preparatory regimen, than those, who contend that all preparation is always superfluous.

But the principal advantage of this method seemeth to be derived from the free use of cold air, in which these Gentlemen have indulged their Patients, through the whole process of the disease, in a much greater degree, than what has generally been allowed. The great error, and which, I fear, has been fatal to thousands, has been a



notion originally imbibed from false theory, that it is necessary to drive the poison, as soon as possible, from the Heart to the Skin, by cordials; and to prevent its retrocession from the Skin by keeping the Patient in close and heated air. I fear, it is true, that even they, who have held different tenets, have sometimes fallen short of their own professions. Although, in opinion, advocates for the cool regimen, they have, in reality, not carried it fully into execution. They have sometimes yielded (as Sydenham acknowledgeth he was obliged to yield) to the insuperable prejudices of Nurses; and have sometimes given up their judgment in or-



der to save their reputation, in a disease, the event of which will ever be uncertain, whatever may be the management. In fact, if we inquire in many parts of this country how the Small-Pox is generally treated, we find very little partiality to the doctrine of Sydenham. Much oftener are the directions, laid down by Riverius, implicitly followed, nay even exceeded by a warmer regimen than was by him required. “*Æger in loco calidiusculo detineatur, quo cutis pori aperiantur, & Variolarum eruptio adjuvetur. Ideo detinendus est in cubiculo bene clauso, quod æer frigidus nullo modo ingrediatur.*”

It is worthy of our curiosity



to trace Sydenham (whose pieces upon this subject are particularly esteemed) through the several parts of his writings, where this disease is mentioned, and through their several editions. If we do this, it will appear greatly to the honour of that careful observer, that he did not attach himself to an opinion with a precipitate and factious zeal; but that he was led on to truth dispassionately, by slow degrees, and through a long course of experience \*. And here it is

\* The different manner, in which he recommends his favourite cooling liquor, in the several editions of his *Methodus curandi Febres*, is an instance of what is here observed.

In the first edition he says — *Non impedire* quo minus tenuiorem cerevisiam,



very observable, that he became a greater Patron of the cool regimen in proportion to the progress which he made in the knowledge of the disease.

\* When he first entered upon practice, he found Physicians greatly divided in their opinions

toſto pane paululum tepefactam, interdum biberet, quem nonnunquam etiam deguſtaret ſuo arbitrio.

In the ſecond — Cereviſiam tenuiorem, pane toſto leviter tepefactam, *pro potu ordinario*, ac nonnunquam pro arbitrio deguſtandam *concedo*.

In the third — Cereviſiam tenuiorem, pane toſto leviter tepefactam, pro potu ordinario, ac nonnunquam pro arbitrio *hauriendam concedo*.

In the fourth — Cereviſiam tenuiorem, pane toſto leviter tepefactam, pro potu ordinario, ac *ſubinde* pro arbitrio hauriendam *concedo*.

\* See T. Sydenham Meth. Curandi febres, Londin. 1666.



with respect to the proper treatment of the Small-Pox; one Party contending for the necessity of the antiphlogistic method, in order to check the too great ebullition of the blood; the other Party as strenuously insisting on the necessity of cordial medicines, and a very warm regimen, in order to imitate Nature, and to expel the malignity of the disease from the center of the body to the circumference. Both Parties, we find, had nearly equal influence with the World; and Sydenham was persuaded that a great number of Patients had fallen victims to both heresies. He professeth his opinion to be in the middle of the two extremes,



He appears greatly afraid of bleeding, and of exposing his Patients to the injuries of the air, lest the eruption of the pustules should be checked; and, in particular cases, he allows a cordial both before, and after the eruption. But, from the very beginning, it is observable that he leans towards the cool method. “ If my own Son, says he, “ was to have the “ Small-Pox, (unless something “ extraordinary was to happen) “ I would not suffer him to “ keep his bed till the first appearance of the eruption; nor “ would I allow more fire in “ the room, or more cloths on “ the bed, than what he is accustomed to, when in health.”

What he says concerning those, who pass through *the period of separation* in an easy manner, is worthy of observation. “I am pleased,” says he, “with such a case, not only because my Patient has suffered but little; but because not having been conscious of his disorder, and therefore having enjoyed the benefit of the free air, he is much better prepared for *the secretion of the matter*, than if he had been put under an hot regimen, and taken I know not how many cordial medicines.” Nay in case of the fever being very high, he orders either bleeding, or some medicine extremely cooling, or the use of free air. And



he mentions the case of several People, who, in a *delirium*, escaped death by flying from their Nurfes, and expofing themfelves to the cold air of the night; and of others, who after having been defpaired of, were recovered by means of drinking cold water.

In the next edition of the fame work (viz. that of the year 1668) he appeareth to have advanced a ftep farther. In the fummer, provided that the eruption be not very numerous, he allows his Patient to get up every day; and is of opinion that the diforder, thus treated, goes through its feveral ftages with lefs trouble to the Sick, and in lefs time, than if he be confined



in bed; which is apt to increase the feverish heat, and to render the inflammation of the pustules more painful. Even under the circumstances of cold weather, and a great number of pustules, his directions with respect to the heat of the chamber, and to the cloths on the bed, are precisely the same, as above. However he does not as yet appear to have quite forgotten his *veteres aviæ*. Several instances might be given in proof of this observation; particularly where he seems to lay some stress on Milk and Saffron after the eruption.

In his edition of the year 1676, he seems still more confirmed in his opinion of the propriety of the cool method; and



he here expresseth himself with greater warmth and vehemence against the preposterous method of forcing out the eruption. Nay he defyeth his Adversaries to produce one instance of a Patient, who dyed, because Nature had not power to throw out the eruption, unless only when obstructed by Cordials. Likewise he here goeth so far, as to attribute two most formidable symptoms, viz. bloody urine, and purple spots, to the premature confinement of the Sick in bed. He adds that even the nature of the disease is changed by an hot regimen; and that, by such means, the Small-Pox is apt to turn out confluent, which otherwise would have been distinct.



With respect to a mild cordial, which he orders to be taken at least once on the fourth day, in case that the eruption doth not proceed according to his wishes, it is to be observed that he means nothing more than a small quantity of *Diascordium* or of *Laudanum*; and that he gives this with a view to bridle the impetuosity of the blood, and to assist Nature, by quieting the tumult. At the time of the incrustation, he gives 3 or 4 spoonfuls of Canary-Wine; and adds that, before this time, there is no room for Cordials. As to the repercussion of the variolous matter, and a *Diarrhœa*, in consequence of cold, he seems to think that they have been



thought to happen much oftener than in reality they have happened. In the confluent Small-Pox, where there is an higher degree of inflammation, he says, more cooling is necessary. And yet, since it is impossible for the Patient to sit up on account of the number of painful ulcerations; and since the swelling of the face and hands must be promoted; he adviseth that he keep his hands in bed, provided that there be not many cloths, and that he be allowed to change his situation at pleasure.

In the year 1681 (as appeareth from his *Dissertatio Epistolaris* addressed to Dr. Cole) Sydenham was clearly convinced

by experience of what his reason before that time had seemed to have pointed out to him, that a Patient ought not to be confined to his bed untill the complete eruption. He had now been taught that the number of pustules (on which the danger of the Small-Pox dependeth) is increased by no means so much as by confinement in bed before the evening of the sixth day from the invasion. And even then he does not seem to confine his Patients to their bed on any other account, (for he observeth that want of sleep, and a *delirium* are apt to be the consequences of lying in bed) than that of necessity, arising from the foreness of the pustules, when



many, and the faintness which generally happeneth on sitting up. Nay if the weather be hot, the Patient young, and used to strong liquors, he thinks it necessary to expose him to the free air, and to prevent a precipitate eruption by all means possible; for which purpose he thinks the admission of free air more efficacious than bleeding; especially if bleeding be followed by an hot regimen. He alloweth that sitting up in the first days of the disease retardeth the eruption; and in consequence that it prolongeth the sickness, and the other symptoms, which depend on the check put to the eruption. But he contendeth that there is



much less danger to be apprehended from this inconvenience, than what would arise from a contrary management. In a word, through the whole of this dissertation, he argueth upon this general doctrine, that it is a Physician's business first *to hinder the precipitate assimilation of the variolous matter* (towards doing which nothing is of so much consequence as fresh air) and afterwards to use every cooling method, as far as circumstances will admit.

When one considers the frequent complaints, which Sydenham makes of the inveterate prejudices of Physicians, as well as of Nurses, in favour of hot air and hot medicines ;



and the frequent embarasments under which he appeareth to have laboured in his practice in the Small-Pox on that account, it is natural to imagine that he did not often dare to carry the cool regimen to the full extent of his own idea of its propriety. Indeed he owns that he was sometimes obliged to give way to the obstinacy of others. What Dozar tells us of his own case, as treated by Sydenham, seems to prove, that, where he was at full liberty, and when he had Patients who were obedient, he carried the cooling method beyond what he acknowledged in his writings. For instance, he tells us, “as soon as evident “ signs of the Small-Pox have

“ appeared, *ægrum aurâ libe-*  
 “ *riore interdico.*” And yet  
 here is a testimony of one of  
 his Patients, who asserteth, that  
 he went abroad, by his Phyfi-  
 cian’s advice, until he was blind.  
 “ Whilst I lived,” says Dovar,  
 “ with Dr. Sydenham, I had  
 “ myself the Small-Pox, and  
 “ fell ill on *twelfth* day. In  
 “ the beginning I lost twenty  
 “ two ounces of blood. He  
 “ gave me a vomit; but I find  
 “ by experience purging better.  
 “ I went abroad, by his direc-  
 “ tion, ’till I was blind, and  
 “ then took to my bed. I had  
 “ no fire allowed in my room.  
 “ My windows were constantly  
 “ open. My bed-cloths were  
 “ ordered to be laid no higher



“ than my wait. He made me  
 “ take twelve bottles of small  
 “ beer, acidulated with oil of Vi-  
 “ triol, every twenty-four hours.  
 “ I had of this anomalous kind  
 “ to a very great degree ; yet  
 “ never lost my senses one mo-  
 “ ment.” Would the most zea-  
 lous admirer of Sydenham dare  
 to go such lengths on the au-  
 thority even of his latest works?  
 What then can we think of  
 Morton’s assertion ; who, after  
 having said, that the cool me-  
 thod of treating the Small Pox  
 had been followed with fatal  
 effects to several of Sydenham’s  
 Patients, and with disgrace to  
 the Physician, adds, “ quam  
 “ ob causam (ut mihi narratum  
 “ est) in postremis vitæ annis dif-

“ciplinæ hujus rigorem ipse  
 “quadantenus relaxavit?” Is  
 not this to be disregarded, as the  
 hear-say evidence of a prejudi-  
 ced Adversary? We know, that  
 Sydenham did not live more  
 than four years, after he publish-  
 ed the second edition of his *Dis-  
 sertatio Epistolaris*; in which  
 book the cool regimen is as ear-  
 nestly defended as in any part  
 of his works. Nay, what is still  
 stronger, in his treatise *de febre  
 putridâ variolis confluentibus su-  
 perveniente*, an edition of which,  
 enlarged and corrected, he pub-  
 lished only one year before his  
 death, (in which book he pro-  
 fesseth to communicate some  
 late observations) he repeats the  
 very same doctrine with respect



to the dangers arising from an early confinement in bed, sweating, &c. And indeed it would be extremely injurious to the character of the good Sydenham, to suppose that he would, almost on his death-bed, so warmly have recommended to Posterity a practice, from which he had found reason to recede.

I have purposely been thus particular in examining the practice of Sydenham, in order to shew, that it has all the marks of having been built on the solid foundation of the experience of many years. I need not say how likely it is, that a practice, thus founded, should deserve imitation. Whether the Inoculators (of whom

an account is given above) had or had not the authority of Sydenham in their eye; the improvements introduced by them, seem principally to depend on their having carried Sydenham's notions into execution with greater latitude and extent, than he himself ever ventured to do. Indeed they have almost made it certain, that we can hardly err in pursuing the cold regimen. What can be a stronger confirmation of this than the following fact, related by the elder Dr. A. Monro? "I have  
 " good information," says he,  
 " of one hundred and twelve  
 " People being inoculated in the  
 " middle of winter, in some of  
 " our most northern isles, where



“ there was scarce fuel enough  
 “ to prepare victuals, and many  
 “ of the inoculated went abroad  
 “ bare-footed in snow and ice;  
 “ and yet not one of the whole  
 “ number died.” Let any one  
 reflect on the situation of these  
 poor people, in that northern  
 climate, and almost destitute of  
 fuel in the depth of winter,  
 (most probably having had little  
 or no preparation) and yet all  
 recovering from inoculation—  
 and then let him, if he can, de-  
 fend the benefits, which arise  
 from the warmth of a bed,  
 from nursing, and from cordials.

It would be an acquisition of  
 the highest importance to man-  
 kind, if from these premises  
 some practical conclusions could

be drawn, which might suggest to Physicians a more efficacious method, than is at present in their hands, of treating the natural Small-Pox; which, it must be acknowledged, is too frequently found to be a most intractable disease. The history, recorded by Sydenham, of the young man at Bristol, who owed his recovery to his being laid out on a table, as if dead, is sufficiently known. To this history there is a great resemblance in a case, which is mentioned by Dr. Kirkpatrick, as having happened in Carolina. “ Mr. Benjamin Marych had a  
 “ violent natural confluence in  
 “ the hot weather.—His attendants  
 “ thought him dead;



“ upon which the fasces were  
 “ immediately set open ; and  
 “ a fresh quantity of air, or pos-  
 “ sibly a wind rushing in, pro-  
 “ duced a fresh respiration and  
 “ motion in the Person who  
 “ was thought dead. When  
 “ this was observed, they went  
 “ to put them down again. The  
 “ Patient, who saw it, and was  
 “ speechless, but sensible of the  
 “ alteration and benefit, beck-  
 “ oned with his hand to pre-  
 “ vent them ; and by degrees in-  
 “ tirely recovered.”

Another case of the same  
 kind, is attested by a Gentle-  
 man of great judgment and ex-  
 perience, and whose veracity is  
 undoubted. The following is  
 his account of it. “ In the

“ year 1736, a Man, who lived  
 “ as servant with Mrs. Brode-  
 “ rep, one of the Daughters of  
 “ Archbishop Wake, in Great  
 “ Ormond-Street, had the con-  
 “ fluent Small-Pox; and, on  
 “ the evening of the 15th or  
 “ 16th day, his life was intire-  
 “ ly despaired of. On the next  
 “ morning, when I went ra-  
 “ ther to inquire after him, than  
 “ to visit him, the Nurse’s re-  
 “ port was, that he had grown  
 “ worse and worse ’till 2 or 3  
 “ o’clock in the morning; at  
 “ which time that he ceased to  
 “ breathe, became insensible and  
 “ motionless, and appeared to be  
 “ absolutely dead. About 5 or  
 “ 6 o’clock in the morning the  
 “ body was removed and placed



“ on a large table, near an open  
 “ window, with no covering  
 “ except only a shirt. No sign  
 “ of life appeared; but the  
 “ body continued hotter than  
 “ common after death. This  
 “ heat however the Nurse attri-  
 “ buted to the weather. In  
 “ this state he had remained  
 “ about an hour; when the  
 “ Nurse heard a sort of sigh, or  
 “ faint breathing; and it was  
 “ observed, that he had moved  
 “ his arms across his stomach.  
 “ Being raised up, with some  
 “ difficulty he took a spoonful  
 “ of a cordial medicine, order-  
 “ ed for him on the preceding  
 “ day; and as soon as he was  
 “ able to speak, he said that the  
 “ cold air was very refreshing.

“ Being carried back to the  
 “ bed, he fell into a sweat, and  
 “ slept 3 or 4 hours. About  
 “ this time I saw him. His  
 “ pulse was now equal and  
 “ strong; his respiration better  
 “ than it had been for several  
 “ days before; and his senses  
 “ perfect. The door and win-  
 “ dows were left open; and in  
 “ a few days the Man was quite  
 “ out of danger.”

Dr. Huck communicated to  
 me an observation, which con-  
 firms the truth of what Syden-  
 ham mentions on the same sub-  
 ject. When he was at Oswego,  
 many Patients were brought into  
 the hospital with all the appea-  
 rances which promise a mild kind  
 of the Small-Pox. The hospital



being much crouded, the eruption grew more and more numerous, at last became confluent, and the greatest part of the men died. It was likewise observed by Dr. Huck, that both Soldiers and their Children, who were taken ill on a march, and were obliged to be carried on, generally had the Small-Pox in a favourable manner. Even the Small-Pox communicated by Inoculation, which in general are so mild, that they rather appear another species of disease, than a milder kind of the same species with the natural Small-Pox, are capable of becoming most malignant and fatal under improper management. Of this several examples might be pro-



duced. Out of 384, who were lately inoculated at \* Blandford, 150 were poor people, for whom the parish paid the Operators. Not one of these had the confluent Small-Pox; not one died. Of the rest, a great number were in danger from the confluent Small-Pox; and thirteen died. Such an event naturally calls to our memory a passage of Sydenham. “*Fa-*  
*cile erit vulgare istud pro-*  
*blema solvere; quî fiat sci-*  
*licet, ut perpauci adeo è*  
*Plebe hoc morbo pereant, si*  
*ad eos comparentur, qui inter*

\* According to Dr. Kirkpatrick's information, in the year 1753, 309 Persons were inoculated in the town of Blandford; out of which number 3 died.



“ Divites eodem trucidantur.

“ Quod quidem vix ad aliam

“ causam potest referri, quam

“ quod vix illis fiat copia sibi

“ nocendi.”

Dr. Pultney, a very ingenious Physician at Blandford, has favoured me with an account of this late unfortunate Inoculation: which account, as it appears to be of importance to the subject of this little Essay, I have his permission to subjoin.

DEAR SIR,

**I** Comply with your request the more chearfully, since I find that such accounts, with respect to the ill success of Inoculation in this Town, have been industriously propagated, as may, with unthinking and prejudiced People, tend to bring discredit on a practice, which is of great and general benefit to mankind; and which, notwithstanding any partial or local miscarriage that may now and then happen to it, every friend of Society would wish to see more universally prevailing.

From the table annexed, you will see that out of 384 Persons, who have been inoculated, 13



have died. It must be allowed that such a proportion of deaths is greater than what has been usual under Inoculation. Although I do not take upon me to account for this failure, (not having been at all concerned in inoculating any one, my own servant excepted) yet in order to throw all the light that I can upon the causes of these misfortunes, I now send you as exact an history of the whole transaction as it has been in my power to collect.

The circumstances which both preceded, and attended our Inoculation, were such as would not give one grounds to expect the best success from it.

It must then be observed, that the Small-Pox have lately pre-

vailed universally over many parts of the West of England; and have been of a very malignant and destructive kind. From an account given by Dr. Andrew of Exeter, it appears that out of 44 Patients, whom he attended in the space of 8 months, under the natural Small-Pox, 25 died, all of the confluent sort, and accompanied with purple spots. I am credibly informed likewise, that, at Lyme in this County, out of about 250 People, who have had the disorder in the natural way, 60 at least have lately died. Of the few, who were seized with the distemper at Blandford before Inoculation was resolved on, a great proportion died under very malignant



symptoms. Likewise several of those, who sunk under Inoculation, had symptoms of the highest putridity, such as hæmorrhages, *petechiæ*, and military pustules, before the eruption of the Small-Pox could be completed. How far therefore a constitution of the air, which seemed to favour the natural malignity of the disease, especially under circumstances which will hereafter be mentioned, may be allowed to have operated on inoculated subjects, it is not for me to determine.

At the time when the Small-Pox first broke out at Blandford, it is supposed that there were in the Town at least 700 Persons, who had not had that

disorder. Inoculation therefore became a desirable object as well for the preservation of individuals, as for the general interest of the Town. But I fear that the universal hurry and precipitation, with which this business was undertaken, was a fundamental error, from which much of our misfortune was derived. A perfect rage for Inoculation at once seized the whole Town and Neighbourhood. It was no sooner thought of, than done. The distemper broke out in the first week of April; and on the 13th of that month a general Inoculation was agreed upon. On the 16th a great number of People submitted to the operation; and within about a week from that



time, I believe the number of the inoculated amounted to near 300. It is natural to suppose that many People would thus receive the infection improperly. I do not here enter into any argument concerning the necessity of preparation in all subjects. The propriety of some preparation (if at least we take the word in an extensive signification, and as respecting the generality of subjects) will be universally granted. The Practitioners in physic endeavoured in vain to represent to their Patients the impropriety of receiving the infection so rashly. The impatience of some was so great, that they left their accustomed Apothecaries for the

fake of being inoculated a day or two sooner. A preparatory course was despised. The general success of Inoculation, in other places, had so prejudiced the minds of the People in its favour, that they were perfectly careless and secure about the consequences; and had not the least apprehension of possible danger. It is certainly of great importance, that the regimen and diet of the Patients should be intirely conducted by the Inoculator; as we well know what mischief may be done by the vulgar prejudices, which still prevail, with respect to the treatment of this disease; and how many advocates there are for the warm regimen among all ranks. And I need not men-



tion the inconvenience, arising to the Practitioner from that superior excellence in managing the Small-Pox, which is claimed by Nurses. In the present case, it must not be concealed, that the hot regimen was too much practised in several instances. And I must own, that, when I was called to some of the People, and saw how far this error had prevailed, I did not wonder that miscarriages should happen. It is needless to add to you, how mortifying it is to a Practitioner to be a witness of the mischiefs, caused not only by hot things given during the eruptive fever, but especially by the pernicious custom of depriving the Sick of the benefit of fresh and cool air;



which, the more we see of the Small-Pox, the more reason we have to conclude to be one of the most powerful antidotes against their malignant effects. There is a fact, notorious in this place, which remarkably confirms such an opinion. And one would have thought, it would of itself have been sufficient to have convinced every inhabitant of the Town, that no great danger is to be apprehended from fresh air, in this disease. I allude to what happened at the time of the fire at Blandford, on the fourth day of June, 1731; at which time upwards of 150 Persons were ill of the natural Small-Pox. All these, on account of the rapidity of the flames, were obliged to be car-



ried instantly into the fields, where many of them remained several days and nights. Beds were laid for them under the hedges, and under the arches of bridges, where, at that season, the ground was dry; and yet, notwithstanding this sudden exposure to the air, it is a fact, which many People well remember, and can testify, that one Person only died, viz. a young Woman, who was almost expiring at the time when she was removed.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Blandford,  
June 21, 1766.

R. PULTNEY.

	Inoculated.		Died.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
under 1 Year	5	5		
from 1 to 2	5	4		(1) 1
2 to 3	7	7		
3 to 4	9	3		(2) 1
4 to 5	6	8	(3) 1	
5 to 6	12	10	(4) 1	(5) 1
6 to 7	6	7		(6) 1
7 to 8	17	10		
8 to 9	9	4		
9 to 10		5		(7) 1
10 to 12	15	18		(8) 1
12 to 15	22	16		
15 to 20	20	10		
20 to 25	13	17	(9) 2	(10) 2
25 to 30	7	9	(11) 1	
30 to 35	5	4		
35 to 40	5	3		
Males.	173	141		
Females.	141	70	Inoculated by persons from whom I could not procure an exact account.	
Total	384			

1. Distinct sort, and not very full. She lived to the turn, and died in consequence of a very large tumour of the axillary Gland, which induced an erysipelatous inflammation of one side of the *thorax*, and gangrened very soon.
2. Died with putrid symptoms before the eruption was compleat.
3. Confluent kind. He died at the crisis.
4. Confluent kind. He died on the 7th Day from the eruption.
5. She died during the eruptive Fever, as if peripneumonic, having before been subject to slight asthmatic complaints.
6. Almost totally covered with the black sessile kind. She died on the 8th Day after sickening.
7. She died with *Petechiae* on many parts of the body before the eruption of the Small-Pox.
8. Very full, with the black sessile kind. She died before the crisis with symptoms of great putridity.
9. Both these young men died during the eruptive state; one of them with a copious military eruption all over the body.
10. One of these, not full, died after the compleat eruption, under a sudden and violent flooding, having concealed a pregnancy, and miscarried. The other, loaded with the confluent kind, sunk at the turn.
11. This Man had a long and violent convulsion on the first day of the eruptive fever, which was succeeded by a violent hemorrhage from the Nose. He became very full of the black sessile kind, and died on the 4th Day after the eruption without the least elevation of the Small-Pox, and with high symptoms of putridity.

F I N I S.



Total		Inoculated by persons from whom I could not procure an exact account.	
324	70	141	141
Males.		173	141
22 to 40	2	3	
36 to 38	2	4	
22 to 30	7	9	(11) 1
20 to 22	12	17	(9) 2 (10) 2
12 to 20	20	10	
12 to 12	22	16	
10 to 12	12	18	(8) 1
9 to 10		7	(7) 1
8 to 9		4	
7 to 8	17	10	
6 to 7	6	7	(6) 1
5 to 6	12	10	(4) 1 (5) 1
4 to 5	6	8	(3) 1
3 to 4	9	3	(2) 1
2 to 3	7	7	
1 to 2	2	4	(1) 1
Under 1 year	2	2	





