

M0006091: Wellcome Historical Medical Museum display: vaccinating during the smallpox epidemic of 1921, Palestine

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PHO. 10681



THORNS USED IN VACCINATING DURING THE EPIDEMIC OF SMALL-POX IN 1921

Presented by the S.M.O. Haifa, Palestine.

THE CUTICLE OF A VESICLE OR POSTULE OF THE ORIGINAL CASE WAS REMOVED WITH A PEELED THORN AND SOME OF THE CONTENTS SPREAD ON THE WEB BETWEEN THE FOREFINGER AND THUMB OF THE RIGHT HAND. THERE, THREE SMALL PUNCTURES WERE MADE WITH THE THORN, WHICH WAS AFTERWARDS DRAWN ACROSS UNDER THE NOSTRILS. THIS WAS DONE, THE MEDICINE-MAN EXPLAINED, SO THAT THE EMANATION FROM THE VARIOLOUS MATTER MIGHT BE INHALED AND SO DOUBLY INOCULATE THE PATIENT.

DAWAIMEH VILLAGE, PALESTINE

(See Lancet, Jan. 23rd, 1926.)