

Verily the physician, with his physic and his drugs  
Cannot avert a summons that hath come.<sup>19</sup>

In all the centuries that separate Rhazes from the global eradication of smallpox, no method of treatment has ever effectively challenged the disease that was once the "most terrible of all the ministers of death." The raging internal and external phenomena of this disease provided a prototype for the study of specificity, contagion, and immunity—besides which yellow fever, typhoid, and cholera were but feeble members of the family of contagious diseases. Knowledge of the natural history of smallpox, which built upon the work of the great Persian physician, Rhazes, led to the tools of preventive medicine: isolation, inoculation, vaccination, surveillance–containment, and, finally, to worldwide eradication.

## References

1. World Health Organization. The global eradication of smallpox. Geneva World Health Organization, 1980.
2. Henderson DA. The history of smallpox eradication. In Lilienfeld AM, ed. Times, places, and persons. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980:99–108.
3. Macauley TH: The history of England, from the accession of James the second. Vol. 5. New York: AMS Press, 1914: 2468–2470.
4. Jenner D. An inquiry into the causes and effects of the variolae vaccinae. London: S. Low, 1798.
5. Razzell P. Edward Jenner's cowpox vaccine: the history of a medical myth. Sussex: Caliban Books, 1977.
6. Baxby D. Jenner's smallpox vaccine: the riddle of vaccinia virus and its origins. London: Heinemann Educational Books, 1981.
7. Bowers JZ. The odyssey of smallpox vaccination. Bull Hist Med. 1981;55:17–33.
8. Miller G. The adoption of inoculation for smallpox in England and France. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1957.
9. Niebyl PH. Attempts at the eradication of pellagra (discussion). In Lilienfeld AM, ed.: Times, places, and persons. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980:79–82.
10. Pusey WA. The history of dermatology. Springfield: Charles C Thomas, 1933:3.
11. Rhazes. A treatise on the small-pox and measles. (Translated from the original Arabic by WA Greenhill, MD). London: Sydenham Society, 1847:4.
12. Gastel B. Measles: a potentially finite history. J Hist Med. 1973;23:34–44.
13. Hawkes N. Science in Europe: smallpox death in Britain challenges presumption of laboratory safety. Science. 1979;203:855–856.
14. Michaelson HE. The boundaries of dermatology. AMA Arch Dermatol Syphilol. 1952;61:1–11.
15. Osler W, McCrae T. The principles and practice of medicine. New York: Appleton, 1923:322.
16. Budd W. Typhoid fever: its nature, mode of spreading, and prevention. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1873.
17. Robinson AR. Manual of dermatology. New York: Appleton, 1885:108.
18. Klauder JV. The interrelation of some cutaneous and ocular diseases. AMA Arch Dermatol Syphilol. 1959;80:51–64.
19. Browne EG. Arabian medicine. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921:8.

## How the Archives of Dermatology Came to Be

The *Journal of Cutaneous Diseases and Syphilis*, as it was originally called, was supported as a publication by the American Dermatologic Association. Dr. Oliver S. Ormsby, one of its later editors, went to the headquarters of the American Medical Association to say that the members of the American Dermatologic Association each had been putting up \$600–800 every year and that it had become a burden to them. He knew that the list of specialty journals published by the AMA was growing steadily and wondered whether the AMA could be of any help.

For some time the *Journal of Cutaneous Diseases* had been printed by the AMA in an endeavor to reduce their costs. Dr. William Alan Pusey, who was treasurer of the AMA, had also shown great interest in the development of a dermatologic periodical by the AMA.

In 1920, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the AMA, the decision was made to have published by the AMA a journal called *The Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology*. Dr. William A. Pusey was made editor-in-chief, a position that he occupied for the first 16 years. Dr. Pusey was succeeded by Dr. Howard Fox. The history of *The Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology* appears in the book *The History of the American Medical Association* published by W. B. Saunders Company in 1947 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Association.

In 1937, a series of seven articles occupying 60 pages appeared in *The Archives* paying tribute to many phases of Dr. Pusey's life. One of these articles dealt specifically with the founding of *The Archives*.

The care of syphilis was an important part of dermatology even after the discovery by Ehrlich of salvarsan. More recently the problem is related so little to the practice of the dermatologist that the phrase "and Syphilology" was dropped.—*Morris Fishbein, M.D., Editor, Medical World News. (Personal communication to Lawrence Charles Parish, M.D., dated May 28, 1965.)*

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.