

Cure for Erysipelas

The magazine issue selected in this paper is *Scientific American* magazine, a popular American magazine that focuses on a wide range of inspiring technological and scientific advancements as well as how these advancements change people's understanding of the real world. The magazine was first published in 1845 by Springer Nature publishers in the U.S and has since then been published continuously on a monthly frequency. *Scientific American* has a large audience of more than 9 million individuals forming the general public. The main reason for the selection of this magazine is because in today's world, there has been a great evolution of technology as well as research, and almost every activity has been impacted by technological advancements. The great distinction of how people did their activities in the 1850s and how they do them today has also had a significant influence on the selection of this magazine.

The selected issue contains articles that talk about technology and scientific changes in American history. This issue to a large extent explains how research can change our understanding of the world and shape our lives as well. From the context of all the articles in this issue, it is clear that they are based on research and what science can do to change the lives of people. Some of the articles in this issue include: "Cure for Rheumatism," "Cure for Erysipelas," "How to make Old Oak," "Steam pump and fresh water condenser," and "Coal in Ireland," among others. These articles are all based on research findings and scientific changes that have taken place in American history.

The article "Cure for Erysipelas" in this issue talks about how the cure for this disorder has been acquired through research. The author states that he has been a

great sufferer of the disorder, but he has now discovered its simple cure. As the author suggests, a simple poultice made of finely pounded cranberries, then applied in a raw state is possibly an effective remedy for Erysipelas. The author states that the poultice works best when applied two times a day: when going to bed and after waking up in the morning. This was the strategy used by the author, and in two days' time, the inflammation in his face was completely gone and was now well as ever.

This article fits into the themes of the course to show the power of research by finding a remedy for a disorder that negatively impacted the lives of many people in America. This article was of help to people of American history since they could now treat the disease more easily with a combination of readily available resources and witness the results within two days.

The audience of this article is the general public, and most specifically the people of the U.S. Erysipelas was a very serious bacterial infection in the United States and greatly impacted the lives of many people in American history. This disease contributed to the death of many people, and among them was William Wirt, who was the U.S. Attorney General and also a presidential candidate in 1834 (Priscilla, 2000, par 1). Due to the adverse effects that the disease had on the American people, the author dedicates the article to the public so that they can be aware of the newly developed and effective cure for the disease, hence solving the problem.

Erysipelas was well-known to be characterized by a tender red rash often occurring on the face or legs but would show up anywhere on one's skin. The affected persons would start experiencing increased fever and headache, and would also shiver a lot and vomit. Affected individuals would generally feel unwell and start experiencing

the red rash within 48 hours from when they were infected. The growth of Chicago in the 1850s highly contributed to more severe forms of erysipelas (Hamill, 1867, par 3). People who lived in the urban areas of Chicago were highly exposed to the Streptococcal form of Erysipelas, and the city became full of tension as the people feared that the disease had struck the city. The traditionalists who had earlier witnessed severe epidemics of the past stated that the emergence of erysipelas seemed like another great plague (Hamill, 1867, par 4).

By writing this article, the author was therefore informed of the existence of the disease and was aware of the adverse effects and impacts that it has on the lives of people. The strike of the disease in the urban areas of Chicago for instance arose a lot of tension among the people who feared for their lives, hence an indication that the infection was addressed very seriously. The author's aim in writing this article was to give a message of hope to the people, of a new and simple method of treating the disease which was a bother to many people. Today, most people often prefer clinical therapies, and thus use oral penicillin as a treatment strategy for erysipelas. Due to the advancement in technology, the author's cure for erysipelas is most probably viewed as much traditional.

Conclusion

Scientific American is a very informative and educative magazine. It contains different articles that all communicate the message of technological and scientific advancements as well as research. In the article "Cure for Erysipelas," the author communicates to the public about the newly developed cure for erysipelas, a bacterial infection that he claims to have been a great sufferer. The cure that the author proposes

is a simple poultice made of finely pounded cranberries, which seems to be readily available and works out within two days. From this project, I have learned that research is very important, as it can help to solve existing problems in society. I have also learned that technology plays a very important role in people's lives. As technology advances, people are also able to integrate the improved technology to acquire new methods of solving the existing problems. In general, this project was much helpful to enable me better understand the period prior to 1877.

References

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