

Syringe

The cholera epidemic reached Edinburgh by January 1832. Cholera killed victims quickly and doctors often experimented, trying to find a cure. Doctor Thomas Latta of Leith attempted to cure patients with a saline solution he injected using a metal syringe. Dr Latta experimented by injecting warm saline fluid into patients by intestine, then by mouth, before directly into the veins in a very early form of intravenous therapy.



Syringe

Date: c.Mid 1800s

Material: Pewter and wood

Object origin: France

Reproduction: No

Preparation: None



STATION "B"

Satirical Print “The Court of King Cholera”– John Leech 1852

The cholera epidemics of the 1800s highlighted the extensive lack of sanitation in cities. Prior to the Edinburgh outbreak streets were cleaned and lime-washed to improve sanitation. However, in a time of early industrialization many homes were overcrowded with families and sewers were overflowing in the streets. Cholera was concentrated in these poor districts where sanitation was limited.



Satirical Print – John Leech

Date of original: 1852

Material: paper, ink

Object Origin: United Kingdom

Reproduction: Yes

Preparation: Printed



STATION "B"

Charcoal

Doctors did not fully understand how cholera spread. It was not certain if it was contagious, caused by poison in the air, poison in the water supply or something else entirely. If water was suspected of cholera it had to be cleaned. It was common practice to boil the water, but also to filter it through sand, gravel, or charcoal.



Charcoal

Date: 2018

Material: Charcoal inside glass container

Object Origin: United Kingdom

Reproduction: No

Preparation: Bark burnt at a high
temperature for several hours



STATION "B"



Dr Snow Print

Dr John Snow helped advance understanding of cholera by hypothesising it was due to contamination of sewage in the drinking water. He began to map where cases were occurring during the London outbreak in 1854. The southern district had the highest number of cholera patients of any other region of London combined. His data showed that the cases clustered around the Broad Street water pump. The water supply came from a separate part of the Thames highly polluted with sewage. He convinced the St James Parish Board to shut down the pump and the cases rapidly decreased.



Dr Snow Print

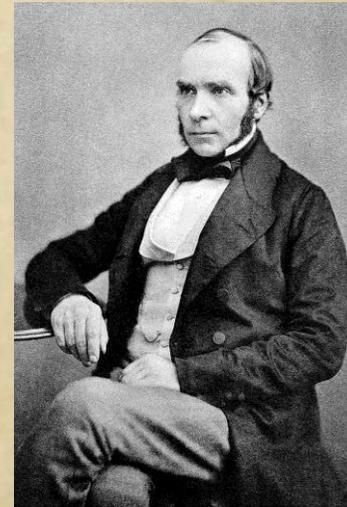
Date of original: 1854

Material: Ink and paper

Object Origin: London

Reproduction: Yes

Preparation: Printed material



STATION "B"

