

beginning of the eighteenth century the custom was spread through the Mahomedan world, Tripoli, Algeria, Turkey in Asia, Arabia and Circassia. The well-known Dr. Richard Mead explained the beauty of the Circassian women, or more truly the preservation of the same, as being due to the fact that by inoculation by the mild disease in their youth the effects upon the skin were practically nil, and thus they were protected from future ravages of the disease.

It was in Constantinople that that most advanced new woman of her period, the Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, wife of the ambassador to the Sublime Porte, was so much impressed with the value of the method that she obtained an old Greek woman, a professional inoculator, who with Mr. Maitland, the surgeon of the embassy, inoculated her son, and so successful was the procedure that on her return to England she subjected her infant daughter to the same operation.

Lady Mary was well known; the daughter of the fifth Earl of Kingston, she had at the age of eight been named a toast at the Kiteat Club and elected a member by acclamation. She married her husband against the consent of her father, and by special license—a distinctly advanced procedure in those days, both as regards the special license and the paternal consent. She was the friend of Mary Astell, the defender of woman's rights in her day. I mention these facts because perchance I am deterring some of you from attending the debates at the Woman's Congress, and I would not seem to forget the claims of that Congress upon our consideration. The great little poet, Pope, was enamoured of her and then of a sudden developed into a venomous foe. Why he did so has become one of the puzzles of literature. Two rival theories have gained strong support, one that she had borrowed a pair of sheets from him (he had induced the Wortley Montagu family to become his neighbours at Chittenham) and Lady Mary returned the sheets unwashed; second, that she had by her witty and engaging manner led him to the point of solemnly avowing his love to her, whereat she laughed at him loudly and scornfully. Whichever be correct, there is no doubt that he wrote bitter, not to say brutal, things about her, and she managed to circulate abroad stories and lampoons of almost equal strength. She was a great woman in her day, and her advocacy of small-pox inoculation did much to ensure the popularity of the process.

The successful results excited widespread interest, and the method gradually became extensively employed. It is calculated that in England alone up to the year 1758 there had been at least 200,000 inoculations or variolations, while in the latter half of the century the