

Name: _____

Dr. Rush's Yellow Fever Case Sheet – Teacher Version

Letter Writer Name(s)	General Info. about Letter Writer(s)	General Info. about Patient(s)	Fever Symptoms	Prescribed Treatments	Treatment Effects	Emotions	Further Questions for Students
Elizabeth Ramsey	-Asks Dr. Rush to visit her home that evening to treat ailing daughter	-Daughter of Elizabeth Ramsey; no name given, probably quite young	-Sick stomach -Head is better; prior headaches? -High, "dreadful" fever	-Powder -Bleeding -Cannot get daughter to drink liquids to get rid of the powder in stomach	-Threw up the powder	-Very sad, worried, even frantic: "Perhaps I shall loose [sic] all that's dear to me this tide."	-Do you think Elizabeth is aware of the risks of bleeding as a treatment?
Mrs. Blackwell, Joseph Blackwell, and George W. Campbell	Dr. Campbell writes to consult with Dr. Rush; Mrs. Blackwell wants Rush to treat her husband & shares frequent updates	Referred to as a "Reverend Doctor" by Dr. George Campbell; a well-educated member of the clergy	-Mrs. B. says "a cold which appear'd very like the Influenza" -Chills -Fever	-Bled very heavily. Dr. Campbell took 15 oz. on Oct. 17 and gave powder of jalop, calomel -Mrs. Blackwell administered powders as well	-Mrs. B. does not describe the effects much. She does say "his Blood is little if any inflammatory" -Joseph Blackwell says his brother "is a little better"	- Mrs. Blackwell is very distraught. She cared for her husband alone (Nov. 2 letter). -Mrs. Blackwell thanks Dr. Rush for his service	-What can we learn about the role of women in the epidemic from these letters? -How do you think Mrs. B felt, when her family would not see her husband?
T. Pickering <i>(Probably the prominent statesman)</i>	-T. Pickering writes to Dr. Rush about the illness of his maid and his son	-The maid is hired help and lower-class. The son, of course, is of a much higher social class	-Maid: insides burning up, puking bile, yellow eyes and face, flatulency, hysteria -Edward: Puking, not eating,	-Maid: Drinking balm, chamomile tea; bleeding, salts -Edward: Glysters, bleeding, flaxseed tea, camphorated spirits	-Maid: "severely purged" -Edward: "Small evacuations" after glysters; "better after every discharge"	-Pickering is very concerned about both maid and son; especially anxious about son's case	-Can you sense a difference in tone in Pickering's letters about his servant vs. his son? Find examples of this.

From the "What the Doctor Ordered" lesson plan by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania & Library Company of Philadelphia.

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M. and S. Meredith	-“Neither he nor myself are sufficient judges of the Puke...” (Letter #2)	-Mr. Meredith is ill; wife reports on condition -He writes a letter once	-Chills -Headache -Upset stomach - Body pains -Vomiting	-Injections -Laudanum -Powders -Cremor Tartar	-Injection helped bowel movements -Laudanum helped sleep	-Mrs. Meredith uses strong, encouraging words for Dr. Rush (Letter #1)	-Do you think Mrs. Meredith is supportive or suspicious of bleeding?
John Hart	-Reports on symptoms, asks to visit Dr. Rush -Hart seems to be a relatively young man, well-off?	-Both Hart and his brother-in-law are patients. -They maybe live in the same house?	-Brother in law: Languid, weak, good pulse, weak stomach, puking -Hart: “very weak,” pain	-Brother-in-law: Blisters, glyster, salts -Hart: Powder, pills, mercury, bleeding	-Brother-in-law: Salts caused “Evacuations” -Hart: “Root of my tongue...is affected with the mercury”	-Hart himself uses little emotional language; says his sister is alarmed with husband’s state	-What treatment did Rush prescribe that we today know is toxic? (Mercury)
Mordecai Lewis <i>(Quaker merchant and civic leader)</i>	-Sharing symptoms of son, asking for house call -Letters get frantic as illness worsens	-Probably a younger child?	-Weakness -Saliva colored with blood -Vomited up a large worm: probably a tape worm, NOT YF	-Mercury -Rhubarb -“Kept cool” -Glysters -Laudanum	-Too much bleeding -Worm possibly dislodged because of harsh chemicals (?)	-Lewis’s wife (boy’s mother) was frantic -You can sense the emotion in Lewis’s short letters	-Based on information in these letters, is it possible that Rush’s treatments did more harm than good?
Alexander Cochran	-Reporting on his own symptoms and asking for house calls and meds	-Cochran is actually the patient; he is writing to Rush while he himself is ill with YF	-Describes “fetid” and green feces -“Skin excoriated” -Bloody gums, lips	-A lot of blood letting (8 oz one day, 14 another day) -Powders -Headaches -Body pain	-Nearly “swooned away” from bleeding -Pill “made my stomach very sick,” etc.	-Letters do not show much/any emotion; very business-like	-What does it say about Cochran that he wrote to Rush himself, and shows few emotions?

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