

From Prof Steven King, 5th May 2020:

On 25 October 1837 the Widow Granger asked the Master of the Barnet workhouse for 'Permission to go out for A few hours to see her Grand Daughter who lies dangerously Ill but we refused in Consequence of the Complaint being the Small Pox'. As we learn that maybe half of all Covid-19 deaths across Europe are in care homes and construct it as a 'scandal', we would do well to remember that the essence of the 'institutional problem' in the face of epidemic disease – how to stop it getting in and then how to contain it should it do so – is essentially timeless.