
STANISLAUS RIVER, CALIFORNIA,
July 1, 1851.

SIR: Obedient to your instructions, I have the honor to submit my first monthly report of the sick treated by me among the tribes of Indians in the valley of the San Joaquin.

In the reservation between the Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers, the most important disease among the Indians, and which cannot be treated by itself successfully, is syphilis. This disease, affecting their constitutions, is too violent to be influenced by the simple remedies known among them, and generally progresses to a fatal termination.

Incapable as they are of treating a disease so malignant in its character, it is left to the benevolence of the white man to save them from its ravages, and prevent the decimation of their tribes.

According to my instructions, I have also vaccinated many of the tribes of the We-chill-la, Suc-co-ah, Co-to-plan-e-mis, Chap-pah-seins, and Sage-nom-nis, to the number of four hundred and forty, and treated them during the different stages of the vaccine disease. I find the Indians understand fully the object of the vaccination, and appreciate the interest taken in their welfare by the agents of the government.

It is but a few years since the ravages of the small-pox were felt among the several tribes in this country, scattering and disorganizing them; and now, the cases that have occurred in San Francisco, and the fear that it will come again among them, causes them to manifest the greatest desire to be vaccinated.

Sir, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. M. RYER, *M. D.*

Col. ADAM JOHNSTON, *U. S. Indian Agent.*