
ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Churchill Acupuncture Needles



In *A Treatise on Acupuncture* (1821), James Morss Churchill describes how he conducted acupuncture with thick-gauged British sewing needles (above), the ivory finger holds of which he “pressed gently, whilst a rotary motion is given . . . by the finger and thumb.” When asked how his acupuncture worked, the English surgeon preferred “preserving a profound silence.” Years later, a grateful 3rd Earl of Egremont would reward Churchill’s acupuncture prowess (in relieving the Earl’s rheumatism and sciatica) with both fame and fortune. The latter the Earl bestowed in pounds sterling; the former, as long-term publicity afforded by dubbing the Earl’s most prized racehorse “Acupuncture.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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