Edward Holme was a physician who lived in Manchester England during the first half of the nineteenth century. He was an active member various academic societies and associations and a well-regarded doctor. In 1818, he was interviewed by the House of Lord’s Committee about health conditions of factories. The exchange below is an excerpt from the interview.

**Question:** How long have you practiced as a physician in Manchester? **Answer:** Twenty-four years...

**Question:** Has that given you opportunities of observing the state of the children who are ordinarily employed in the cotton-factories? **Answer:** It has.

**Question:** In what state of health did you find the persons employed? **Answer:** They were in good health generally. I can give you particulars, if desired, of Mr. Pooley’s factory. He employs 401 persons; and, of the persons examined in 1796, 22 were found to be of delicate appearances, 2 were entered as sickly, 3 in bad health, one subject to convulsions, 8 cases of scrofula (tuberculosis): in good health, 363.

**Question:** Am I to understand you, from your investigations in 1796, you formed rather a favourable opinion of the health of persons employed in cotton-factories? **Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Have you had any occasion to change that opinion since? **Answer:** None whatever. They are as healthy as any other part of the working classes of the community....

**Question:** Who applied to you to undertake the examining of these children in Mr. Pooley’s factory? **Answer:** Mr. Pooley.

Source: House of Lords Committee (Interviewer) & Holmes, E. (Interviewee). (1818).