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# STARTLING FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE REGARDING VACCINATION,

FOR

EVERYBODY WHO HAS ANY INTENTION OF BEING VACCINATED; GIVING GOOD REASONS WHY CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN; SHOWING HOW THOUSANDS ARE BEING POISONED OUT-RIGHT BY IMPURE VIRUS,  
AND GIVING,

## IN PLAIN LANGUAGE,

SUCH ADVICE, FROM PHYSICIANS EMINENT IN THE PROFESSION, AS WILL ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF JENNER'S DISCOVERY WITHOUT IMPERILLING LIFE AND HEALTH.



NEW YORK :  
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## A BOW TO THE READER.

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EVERYTHING is supposed to have its uses; or, in other words, everything is believed to have been made for something. This pamphlet is printed, bound, and now before you. Why?

You need hardly be told after you have perused, but shall be before you spend valuable time in thumbing, its pages. We prize nothing above life and health, but both of these are at this moment in peril; first, by the prevalence of small-pox; and, second, by the carelessness of those who are practicing vaccination. If placed in the order of their real danger, it might be proper to reverse the above classification, and say: first, by the carelessness of the vaccinator, and, second, by the prevalence of the small pox.

The majority of the medical profession are just about as ignorant of what constitutes true and successful vaccination as the masses of the people. The latter apply for a sore arm, and are entirely satisfied if they obtain one. The physician looks at it, and if it is only a "*big one*," he, too, is satisfied, and the patient is pronounced impervious to small-pox!

This ignorance—this malpractice—results in starting up two antagonistic classes in the medical profession; one opposing vaccination under all circumstances, and another favoring the operation in the most indiscriminate manner. Those composing the first are instigated in their opposition by finding that a large number, and perhaps, in some communities, the majority of those contracting small pox, have been vaccinated, and hence claim that Jenner's discovery is not a protection, while they are able to point to thousands of cases in which other diseases than kine-pox have been communicated, frequently to the extent of destroying life. Those of the second class, accepting the "Jennerian system," without investigation or question, indeed knowing little about it, find they can make the required sore arm by secondary as well as by virgin lymph, and clamor for "thorough house to house vaccination," and draw their supply of virus from the arms of those whom they have previously vaccinated. When assured, by those who do not go through the world with eyes and ears closed, that they are sowing syphilis, scrofula, etc., in their track, and that statistics prove that their careless system does not afford the necessary protection, they ridicule the protesters as being



ignorant and prejudiced, and only appeal more loudly for authority to vaccinate, or, in correct parlance, poison, everybody, from the aged, in the old arm chairs, to the children in the public schools.

The small-pox has been unusually prevalent during the past winter, and continues so to be, and the public have really been unable to decide what to do in the matter of vaccination, in view of the disagreement of the doctors. With a score or more of medical writers—well informed upon every other subject than the one upon which they are treating—denouncing Jenner's discovery as useless and mischievous, and another class, true to the traditions of the old school practice, and a professional appetite for nothing else, advocating vaccination, and telling the people that loathsome diseases cannot be communicated through the process, nearly every one has felt like an awakened sinner within the sound of forty sectarian pulpits. To simply say that he is *puzzled* is no word for it. With his mind made up for vaccination in the morning, he may end the day with a preference for the small-pox itself, after hearing the conflicting testimony, and especially the well-sustained evidence that even that loathsome distemper, syphilis, has, in innumerable instances, been communicated by the lancet of the careless vaccinator.

In December last the Academy of Medicine appointed a committee to investigate the subject of vaccination, and report thereon. The respectability of the names of the physicians constituting the committee gave hope that something would be produced which could be accepted as a comprehensive guide to the public in this important matter. It was published in the *Daily Times* the 1st of February. But the reader was quite as much in the dark at the conclusion of the perusal as at the beginning. At the regular monthly meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society, in February, E. B. FOOTE, M. D., exhibited the inconsistencies and absolute contradictions of the report in a well-written criticism which awakened a lively discussion. This discussion has produced something of practical value to the people, and we are now ready to tell you why this pamphlet has been issued. It is to place in the hands of those most interested that information which will enable them to decide intelligently how to act at a moment when those who should be able to advise totally disagree. No extreme position is taken in this little work, while the safe course is plainly marked out. The opponents, as well as the advocates, of vaccination, can strike hands in brotherly accord over the recommendations herein presented.

The New York City Eclectic Society, at the meeting alluded to, appointed Drs. E. WHITNEY, E. B. FOOTE, R. A. GUNN, and J. DE MEYER, a committee to investigate the subject, and draw up a counter-report to that presented to the Academy of Medicine. This report, together with additional articles from Drs. WHITNEY and

GUNN, strongly corroborating its positions, have been published in POMEROY'S DEMOCRAT, and, having awakened unusual interest in the minds of the community, it has been thought advisable to present them in pamphlet form. So here you have the whole matter, reader, and it has been issued for your benefit. Read it, and urge your neighbors to do so. You have nothing here that you cannot easily understand, as technicalities have been carefully avoided so far as practicable. This is eminently a book for the people and in the interests of the people.





# SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION.

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IN presenting the results of their deliberate investigations, Drs. WHITNEY, FOOTE, GUNN, and DE MEYER open by saying that they will, "for the sake of brevity and effect, lay down certain propositions, and the evidence sustaining the same, bearing upon both small-pox and vaccination."

## HUMAN SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

PROPOSITION I.—Leaving for the field of theological discussion the dogma of "total depravity," we do unqualifiedly assert that, with only occasional exceptions, mankind are physically depraved; that a majority of children are born with those latent physical properties which render them susceptible to the influence of contagious diseases.

PROOF.—The well-known liability of children to measles, scarlet fever, chicken-pox, &c.

## THE CAUSE OF SMALL-POX.

PROPOSITION II.—We regard small-pox as the creation of the union of certain minute animalculæ, diseased animal effluvia, or subtle poison, pervading the atmosphere of an infected locality, with either the germs of infusoria, or certain morbid conditions in the human body.

PROOF.—We have no positive knowledge of the creation of any living or material thing excepting by generative or chemical union the doctrine of spontaneous generation still remaining an undecided question among scientists, with the probabilities mainly adverse thereto. We must, therefore, deal with this subject in accordance with the recognized laws of generation and chemistry. There are those who, without vaccination, have been repeatedly exposed to small-pox without contracting the disease, while others, with the least exposure, have fallen easy victims to its ravages. This immunity of the few, and the insecurity of the many, suggests beyond doubt the existence in the latter of those germs or properties that possess an affinity for and attract the germs or properties which, united with those already existing in the susceptible system, produce small-pox. If the latter were simply and only a poison, not in any

degree depending upon certain morbid conditions of the system for its development, then all would be safe, or *all* would be subject to its attacks when exposed to its influence.

It may be well enough, under this head, to remind the members of this society that the drift of scientific investigation at present tends to the confirmation of the hypothesis entertained by many, that small-pox is a disease of similar character to epizoa. According to Huxley, Professor Tyndall has demonstrated that "ordinary air is no better than a sort of straubout of excessively minute solid particles," while M. Pasteur has shown, by a series of interesting experiments, that among these solid particles "there really do exist germs capable of giving rise to the development of living forms in suitable menstrua." We have only then, to admit what seems like an irresistible deduction—in view of the fact that all known living forms are subject to disease—that these atmospheric germs may be transformed to microscopic demons in places of corruption and filth—and that the air of an infected neighborhood is loaded with these mischievous creatures, which are able to make sick and envelop in pustulation every person who carries in his circulation germs or morbid matters, with which they can unite to produce pustules, which, in turn, appear to be generative nests of myriads of the same kind of smaller than microscopic vermin. Inasmuch, however, as the settlement of the true pathological character of small-pox is not essential for the purposes of this paper, we will pass this not altogether irrelevant matter by, having adverted to it only to show the foundation for the epizootic hypothesis. In view of the peculiar characteristics of small-pox, with its remarkable partiality in selecting its victims, there can be no reasonable doubt that something in the infected air, having the taint or germ of the infection, unites with morbid qualities in the system to produce the disease in the susceptible subject; whether in obedience to the laws of chemistry, or to those of vegetative or animal generation, time and the revelations of science must determine.

#### THE THERAPEUTIC EFFECT OF PURE VACCINE.

PROPOSITION III.—The discovery of Jenner supplied to the medical profession means of destroying in the human subject those germs or properties which have affinity for the germs or properties of the disease we call small-pox.

PROOF.—If the previous propositions are true, this one will not be disputed, as the *fact* of the preventive influence of kine-pox is generally admitted by the public and the profession.

#### WHAT CONSTITUTES EFFECTIVE VACCINATION.

PROPOSITION IV.—To render a susceptible person proof against the attack of small-pox, the true disease, vaccinia, must be induced,



the presence of which is indicated by a temporary illness, with the symptoms of small-pox in a mild form, such as slight headache and backache, chill, and some perceptible symptoms of fever.

PROOF.—Thousands of cases of small-pox occur among persons who have been vaccinated and carry upon their arms the scars bearing the characteristic pits of an apparently effective vaccination. But it is found that in nearly or quite all such cases that vaccinia, with its attendant symptoms, had never been experienced. The exceptions, if any there be, are manifestly of those who would be subject to repeated attacks of variola or small-pox.

### ABORTIVE VACCINATION.

PROPOSITION V.—A pustule having the external indications of a successful vaccination may be produced, while the system is not for a moment placed under its constitutional influence.

PROOF.—Evidence confirmatory of this has come under the observation of every vaccinator; but the most convincing evidence that has been offered to this society is the statement of one of its elderly members, who asserts that he has experimented upon himself by vaccinating his arm time and again—as often, indeed, as he thinks of it when he has some of the reliable lymph at hand—and that in every instance he has produced a well marked pustule, with the usual external, and none of the internal characteristics of effective vaccination. By way of explanation, your committee would suggest that this fact may be owing to the previous extinguishment of the small-pox germs or qualities, and a pustulous susceptibility in the subject.

### WHAT MUST BE EMPLOYED FOR EFFECTIVE VACCINATION.

PROPOSITION VI.—The true lymph of kine pox, taken from the udder of a heifer affected with the disease, must be used in vaccination, in order to avoid possible complications of other diseases with the vaccinia, and to render the patient secure from small-pox.

PROOF.—“We do not gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles,” says the sacred writer; we cannot cross a clam with an oyster, or a fish with a turtle. We must obey the laws of generation, or of chemistry, whichever is involved in the production of true vaccinia, and by this we mean that mild form of small-pox which we denominate kine-pox, with its characteristic internal as well as external symptoms. We must, in obedience to those laws, employ for vaccination something possessing an affinity for those latent germs or properties in the system which render the patient susceptible to the contagion of small-pox. It will be found, before the conclusion of this report, that lymph taken from the arm may be, and often is,



deficient of the necessary properties. By the way of argument, we will present the fact, which no medical practitioner will dispute, that there are those who cannot accidentally abrade the cuticle without causing a sore, which is more or less slow in healing. Unless, then, the vaccine virus possesses a virtue, which no one has ever yet claimed for it—that of preventing cutaneous irritation—this same soreness is likely to take place in such persons when vaccinated, and the commingling of the blood impurities with the contents of an otherwise pure vesicle will vitiate the lymph and render it unfit for use in “vaccinating from arm to arm,” as it is called.

Again, it is a fact recognized by all vaccinators, that a true vesicle may be chafed by the clothing or irritated by scratching, when attended with a sensation of itching, and that this constant friction may direct thereto the impurity of the system, and cause an unwholesome suppuration, the contents of which sore are manifestly departures from the characteristics of pure lymph, and consequently unfit for further use. Where there is no apparent tendency to either of the above results, it may be reasonably implied that the discrimination of the vaccinator may be *utterly at fault* in determining what lymph may and what may not be safely employed in “vaccinating from arm to arm;” and this implication is abundantly sustained by facts, which will appear under their appropriate heads. We will simply append here a few statistics derived from the *British Medical Journal*:

“Our Manchester correspondent writes that the extent to which re-vaccination has been practiced in Manchester during the last few months has afforded rare opportunities for deciding some questions, which were before held by some to be still *sub judice*; for example, the custom, which has prevailed among the mill-owners, of having all their work-people vaccinated, has settled the question of the value of secondary lymph as compared with virgin lymph. [We understand the virgin lymph to be that taken directly from the kine, and the secondary that which has passed through the human subject.] Out of many similar experiences, the following may be quoted by way of illustration: A fortnight ago a surgeon vaccinated 300 operatives; in 150 of these cases he employed virgin lymph; in the remaining 150 secondary lymph was used. The first series gave the following results: Nineteen cases unsuccessful, in 16 cases small papulæ and spurious vesicles resulted, while the remaining 115 showed well-marked primary vesicles. The second series gave very different results, for out of them 50 were entirely unsuccessful, 86 terminated in papulæ and small spurious vesicles, and only 14 yielded true primary vesicles.”

These statistics are not as complete as we could wish, for they do not state how many of each class experienced the true symptoms of

vaccinia. We believe, if they did, it would be found that nearly or quite all of the 115 alleged successful vaccinations with the virgin lymph had the real and protective vaccinia—the first effective vaccination—while but a small proportion of the fourteen alleged successful vaccinations with the secondary lymph were thus affected. This, of course, is only problematical, but, presented as imperfectly as they are, these statistics clearly show that the virgin lymph was more than eight times as efficacious as the secondary, besides being attended with less than one-fifth of the liability to papulæ and spurious vesicles. In respect to the papulæ and spurious vesicles observed in the cases wherein the virgin lymph was employed, your committee would attribute them to the predisposition existing in such persons to cuticular irritation by abrasion, as explained above, or to degeneration of the true lymph in the hands of careless vaccinators, rather than to any chemical or generative power on the part of the lymph to “awaken” them.

If, in conformity to the hypothetical but not established doctrine of Xenogenesis, the true and well-preserved bovine lymph is capable of “awakening” diseases in the system unlike vaccinia, even though the predisposing germs pre-exist, such, for instance, as scrofula, syphilis, erysipelas, eczema, &c., or if it is capable of producing other loathsome diseases which seem original in their characteristics, then vaccination becomes an uncertain and even *dangerous* operation, with the most scrupulous care, and a person may better risk the possibility of an attack of small-pox than to voluntarily accept a greater liability of being disabled or utterly destroyed by diseases which vaccination may, and so often, under the present careless system, does “awaken,” to use the favorite word of those who profess to have no fear of spurious vaccination. With the weight of scientific authority adverse to Xenogenesis in the production of epizoa, the probabilities are altogether on the side of those who believe that pure lymph from the kine can only produce kine-pox, and that all serious or destructive variations from that disease, following vaccination, must result from the use of impure or spurious virus possessing those mixed epizootic constituents which enable it to “awaken” or innoculate other diseases.

## TO PRESERVE THE PURITY OF LYMPH.

PROPOSITION VII.—To preserve the purity of kine-pox lymph, it should be kept in something which will completely exclude the air. To this end it may be put upon quill slips, and securely folded in tin foil. Again, it should be kept from heat, animal or artificial. Carried in the pocket of a vaccinator for a little time, it becomes affected with the animal heat and effluvia, causing it to putrefy and



degenerate, in which condition it is manifestly unfit for its specific use.

PROOF.—According to the latest discoveries of science, as before remarked, the atmosphere is impregnated with living particles, and animal secretions removed from the body and exposed thereto decay, and in process of putrefaction the atmospheric germs combine with some unknown properties of the decomposing matter, and produce vermin. Thus exposed, it is self-evident that pure lymph must become impaired, and it is consequently but reasonable to conclude that while the protective power of the virus is impaired, it is liable to have taken on corrupt qualities, which may cause spurious and contaminating pustules on the arm of the patient receiving it. Kept under the influence of animal heat and affluvia it must likewise lose its efficacy and purity, because heat is capable of effecting subtle chemical changes in such matter, and, if Dr. Andrew Combe was right in saying that scrofula might be communicated by prolonged social or bodily contact, the affluvia of a scrofulous or syphilitic person carrying vaccine matter about him, must unquestionably render it unfit for use. In consideration of the fact that the affluvial emanations from the skin are effete, it would seem certain that even when the vaccinator is free from any known disease, he must injure the purity and efficiency of the lymph, if it be carelessly carried about for any great length of time in the vest pocket. If there ever was a case in which the bovine lymph was employed with serious resulting consequences (your committee never heard of one), it is more likely that the impurity was thus communicated than that it was “awakened” in the system, however scrofulous or syphilitic the subject may have been.

#### OTHER DISEASES MAY BE COMMUNICATED BY IMPURE VACCINE.

PROPOSITION VIII.—Contrary to the affirmation of the committee which reported to the Academy of Medicine on the 1st of February, other diseases than vaccinia may be communicated by spurious or impure vaccine.

PROOF.—The language of the said committee's own report wherein, after the affirmation referred to, it recommends in language as follows: “When practicable vaccinate from arm to arm with virus taken on quill slips, directly from a *healthy* individual to the arm of another.” This language, in the judgment of your committee, can only mean that other diseases *may* be communicated if this caution be not exercised. This being the only logical implication, your committee next suggests the impossibility of determining in boyhood before constitutional taints have had time to manifest themselves, or in adult age when they are often obscure or hidden,



who can be safely trusted as a healthy individual. If other diseases cannot be communicated with the vaccine virus, as affirmed by the learned committee referred to, it can make no possible difference whether the individual from whom the lymph is taken be healthy or rotten with disease. The lymph taken from the arm of a patient in one of the syphilitic wards of the Charity Hospital will answer as well as any other, if Proposition VIII. is not well founded. The advice of the committee to the Academy of Medicine shows very conclusively that the said committee considers its ground untenable. Its entire report is devoid of consistency in that—after affirming that other diseases cannot be communicated with the vaccine virus, it virtually concedes the possibility of syphilis being so communicated “under circumstances of gross carelessness;” remarks that complications, such as blotches, rashes, erysipelas, eczema, suppuration of the glands of the neck, &c., are undoubtedly witnessed occasionally, but that they are *mostly* the results of a pre-existing tendency—the word “mostly” having but one possible construction, which is, that these complications “witnessed occasionally” do not *all* result from a pre-existing tendency; tells us in these very words that, “with due precautions no other disease than that of vaccinia will be communicated,” meaning, manifestly, that precaution *is* necessary to prevent other diseases from being communicated; states that under certain circumstances what would have been, if it “had run its course naturally,” a true vesicle becomes “an angry sore,” the matter from which if used for vaccinating others, “*is worse than valueless*,” meaning, if it means anything at all, that such matter may communicate diseases other than true vaccinia; and finally, as already alluded to, it advises the use of vaccine taken from a *healthy* individual, which can convey no other impression than that the virus taken from an unhealthy person may possess impurities which may be communicated. We, therefore, refer you for a refutation of the affirmation of the committee to the Academy of Medicine, that “other diseases cannot be communicated by vaccination,” to the language of their own report, which is conclusive on this point. But, inasmuch as facts are better than arguments or theories, these unanswerable proofs shall be presented to the satisfaction of every reader before the conclusion of this report.

#### OTHER DISEASES ARE OFTEN COMMUNICATED WITH IMPURE VACCINE.

PROPOSITION IX.—We deny the affirmation of the committee which reported to the Academy of Medicine on the 1st of February, that other diseases than vaccinia cannot be communicated with spurious or impure vaccine.

PROOF.—The evidence we have to submit is not less than absolutely appalling. We invite the serious attention of every reader to

the well authenticated facts presented herewith. It is nothing less than a wicked crime against the unsuspecting public to withhold them. It will be observed that your committee give no isolated cases of individuals who are daily infected with the syphilis and other diseases, by careless vaccination, many of whom have come under their direct observation, because the opponents of our views would claim that these isolated persons were simply victims to the "awakening" process, to which they are very ready to ascribe all abnormal manifestations occurring after vaccination. Only such evidence will be presented as exhibits several persons poisoned at one and the same time by impure or spurious vaccine, and having in each and every case become affected with one and the same disease.

In the "Annuaire Encyclopedique," for 1864, may be found the following: "Until recently it has been believed that the vaccine virus formed a characteristic vesicle; no matter what the diathesis or condition of the subject might be, the virus was always the same, and could be used for propagation in others with impunity. In other words, that the vaccine virus in passing through the body could not be contaminated by any constitutional taints, and thus engender any other disease, such as syphilis, scrofula, &c." This article then goes on to quote from the *Union Medicale*, t. xii., in language as follows: "Such was the generally received opinion, when it was ascertained at Rivalta, in Italy, in the first series of forty-six children vaccinated on the 23d of May, 1861, with matter furnished by the vaccine pustules of an infant named Chiabrera, who seemed healthy, and a second series of seventeen children vaccinated with the pus taken from one of the children of the first, there had occurred symptoms of syphilis in thirty-seven children of the first series, and in seven of the second series; then propagation of the infection to the mothers and to the nurses. Several of these infants died; several were fortunately cured." These remarkable cases are also presented in lectures on venereal diseases, by Wm. A. Hammond, M.D., and published by Lippincott, of Philadelphia. In this work the recovery of fourteen of these sufferers is ascribed to the use of the allopathic remedies for syphilis.

By reference to "Braithwaite's Retrospect," vol. 63, page 276, a report, from J. Hutchinson, surgeon to the London Hospital, will be found in language as follows: "On the 7th of February, 1871, thirteen persons, young adults, were vaccinated from the arm of a healthy looking infant. All, except one, had normal vaccine vesicles which healed well; in all, except two, indurated chancres have since developed in the vaccination scars. In nearly all, the scar began to inflame and harden during the fifth or sixth week. Several of them have two or three chancres." This article goes on to remark that the infant from whose arm the lymph was taken, was undoubtedly



the subject of inherited syphilis, the taint having been latent at the time of vaccination, and that she was beginning to waste away with condylomata at the anus. It further remarks that the sores of those suffering from the vaccination were disappearing under the usual treatment for syphilis.

By turning to "Chamber's Encyclopedia," facts, substantially as follows, may be found: "In 1861, in a thinly populated district in Piedmont, in which syphilis was virtually unknown, forty-six children of various ages were simultaneously attacked with syphilis, proceeding from chancres in the arm, and followed by buboes in the arm pits, and that all these children had been vaccinated directly or indirectly from a child who was subsequently proved to have contracted syphilis from a wet-nurse; and, further, that these children transmitted the same disease to their wet-nurses, mothers, and even to children who nursed and played with them; and that the women communicated the disease to their husbands." All these cases yielded to the ordinary treatment of syphilis.

Turn to the "London Lancet" of Janunry, 1866, and you will find the following upon vaccination and syphilis: "This highly important subject has been fully treated by the *Siglo Medico*, a Spanish medical paper. In this article we find statistical tables of value. The author in collecting data respecting the instances of syphilitic contamination through the vaccine virus, shows that the disease was communicated in two hundred and twenty-four out of three hundred and fourteen vaccinations."

On page 103 of the "Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter" of February 10, 1866, may be found an article on spurious vaccination, by George H. Hubbard, M. D., Surgeon of the United States Volunteers, &c., wherein he says, substantially, that on reaching Fort Smith, Arkansas, in November, 1863, his attention was immediately called to several hundred men disabled in consequence of spurious vaccination. He says that "some had well-marked Hunterian chancre; some had large excavated ulcers, with edges elevated above the raw and surrounding induration; the centres, when not recently cauterized, were of a brownish hue—some, whose primary ulcers were almost healed, had secondary symptoms, such as swelling and ulceration of the glands in different parts of the body, while others had pain and stiffening of the joints." He remarks that in all some five hundred men were infected.

It may be remembered that in the specification of one of the charges made against Wirz, of inhuman treatment of the prisoners under his charge at Andersonville, he was accused upon good evidence of using impure or poisonous matter for the vaccination of those prisoners, "by reason of which large numbers of them, to wit, one hundred, lost the use of their arms, and many of them, to wit,



about the number of two hundred, were so injured that they soon thereafter died." It is alleged by some that this charge, well sustained at the time of his trial, cost Wirz his life.

We might go on and fill a volume with facts illustrative of the truth of the proposition under consideration, but we will spare your time and patience by citing no more. Those who would like a finely printed book of extraordinary facts, showing that both syphilis, erysipelas, and, in fact, other diseases, have been communicated by spurious vaccination, are commended to "Researches upon Spurious Vaccination, by Joseph Jones, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Pathology in the Medical Department of the University of Nashville, Tenn." Therein are enough facts to convince anybody who is not wilfully prejudiced. Professor Jones, himself, exhibiting an entirely impartial spirit, would like to explain them in such a way as to avoid undue apprehension in the public mind. But he finds himself unable to do so, and strongly recommends caution in vaccination. Isolated cases of syphilitic or erysipelatous poison by spurious vaccination may be counted by the thousand, and some remarkable cases were presented by members of this society at its last meeting. Inasmuch, however, as these cases are always attributed, by those who differ from us on this subject, to pre-existing latent taints, we have withheld any mention of them in support of the above proposition. There are enough indisputable facts to sustain it without citing those which ingenious minds may, with a little sophistry, seemingly controvert.

#### NEW DISEASES PRODUCED BY VACCINATION.

PROPOSITION X.—Contrary to the affirmation in the report to the Academy of Medicine, which says, "no new disease has been known to follow vaccination," we claim that new diseases have been, and consequently may be so produced. These maladies may partake too much of the character and limitation of hybridity to reproduce and perpetuate themselves so as to become recognized as new and permanent types of disease; but they are, nevertheless, new diseases, in the sense that a mule was a new animal when first introduced by the trick of the stock raiser; and, further, they are new diseases in view of the fact that they are pathological puzzles to medical men. They are, doubtless, generated by a compounding or mixing of those various distinctive germs or properties taken from the impure vesicle of *supposed* kine pox, with those germs or properties for which they have an affinity existing in the susceptible subject who undergoes vaccination. This philosophy may belong to the speculative class, but the assertion preceding it, which really constitutes the proposition under this head, can be sustained by actual facts.

PROOF.—Fortunately for our purpose—unfortunately for the suf-

fering people—a wail comes to the ears of your committee from Wisconsin, at the very moment we are preparing this paper, which sustains it, although we propose to offer further evidence. Copied from the Green Bay (Wisconsin) *State Gazette*, into the New York papers, an article informs us that the Town Board of Hartland, Wisconsin, in view of the prevalence of small pox, resolved to have vaccination thoroughly performed, and accordingly employed a well-known physician of Shawano to do the work. Between the hours of 10 and 4, on the 21st of last month, 117 persons, old and young, were vaccinated. “Of this entire number, within six hours after each patient was vaccinated he was taken sick, exhibiting symptoms of having been poisoned. By the next morning *three had died*; two children of one family being among the victims. Very naturally great consternation seized upon the community, and fear added still greater danger to the situation of the unfortunate people. Messengers were dispatched to Green Bay for medical aid and doctors. Drs. Crane and Rhode went to the scene. By the time they arrived there the sick people had begun to improve, and apparently needed little else than stimulants to entirely recover. As near as can be described, the arms of the patients presented an appearance similar to the results of a snake-bite, and the symptoms were those of a person recovering from an overdose of morphine.” Determining to learn whether the foregoing was strictly true or otherwise, your committee wrote to the editors of the *Gazette*, and before the conclusion of the preparation of this report they received a prompt reply, confirming the truth of the statement by furnishing other names and circumstances, which letter is submitted with this report. Among other statements made in the letter you will observe one to this effect: The doctor who went out there pronounces “these cases the strangest ever coming under his observation,” and confesses he “can offer no solution of the mystery.”

In 1860 sixty persons were vaccinated at Westford, Mass., on two successive mornings, with vaccine obtained from the city physician of Boston, all of whom were immediately affected with a very singular and malignant disease, which proved to be entirely new and unknown to the profession, and “the investigation,” we are informed by the foreman of the coroner’s jury, “was conducted in a very careful manner, some fifty-five witnesses, many of them the first M. D’s. in this vicinity,” having been examined. Four deaths occurred in from eighteen to seventy-two hours after vaccination, and an eminent surgeon, referring to the judicial investigation into the facts and the cause of death on that occasion, says: “I was summoned at the coroner’s inquest as a witness in regard to the cause of death of many persons who died soon after vaccination in the town of Westford, Mass. I heard the testimony of several witnesses.



Medical testimony presented many theories as to the cause of the vaccination terminating so disastrously, for nearly all that were vaccinated were immediately affected, and some died within a few days. There was no doubt expressed in any of the theories as to the cause of death—all admitting that vaccination was the direct cause of death in the several cases before the jury. These cases presented a variety of symptoms unlike kine pox in most instances, and unlike each other in some particulars, but all were attended with putrid fever and, in many, sub-cutaneous abscesses, while some were very delirious in the early stage and died soon after. These cases," continues the surgical writer, "did not resemble anything that had ever been known by any of the faculty before—and were considered *entirely new* here, but caused by a poison from the vaccination." Your committee have within a few days received a letter from the foreman of the coroner's jury, before which these remarkable cases were investigated, corroborating the facts given by the surgeon whose statement we have just presented.

J. M. Comins, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics in the Eclectic Medical College of this city, informs your committee that some years ago, when living in Palmer, Mass., the small pox made its appearance, occasioning a great deal of excitement. An allopathic physician living in the place vaccinated perhaps a hundred, and in a large majority of the cases so vaccinated the virus had a very deleterious effect. The arms of some of them, from the shoulder to the elbow, were covered with a black scab resembling a smear of coal-tar, and were swollen to their fullest capacity. The affection was attended with general fever and resembled, somewhat, erysipelas, but the real character of the disease could not be definitely determined. The scab used in these cases came from the State Almshouse. Dr. Comins remarks that about fifty came under his observation who were thus affected. He further says that he vaccinated, himself, some cases in the same families, with lymph taken from the cow, and that there was not a single one of them that did not work well and give the true symptoms of vaccinia. It should not be overlooked in this instance, that members of the same families vaccinated with spurious lymph were affected with the peculiar disease described, while those vaccinated with the pure lymph passed safely through the usual symptoms attending successful vaccination. The physician who performed the vaccinations with spurious lymph was so good a disciple of the Academy of Medicine in its theory as to the non-communicability of other diseases that he would take the lymph or scab from the arm of any person. At one time he wished to take it from a woman who was afflicted with the salt rheum so badly that she had to wear gloves and soothing plasters! She, wiser than he, would not permit it.



Under this head we might present a multiplicity of facts, if it were necessary. We simply offer those which are at hand. Isolated cases which might properly be placed under this head, confirmatory of the proposition under consideration, were presented to this society at its last meeting, in one of which, related by R. E. Kunze, M. D., death ensued within a few weeks after vaccination by the Board of Health or its appointed vaccinator; but we forbear to present any which may be claimed to have arisen from pre-existing impurity. Where a whole neighborhood is poisoned by spurious vaccination, no such explanation will suffice.

## SECONDARY LYMPH VALUELESS.

PROPOSITION XI.—Results show that secondary lymph possesses but little value as a protector against small pox, if indeed it does not sow the seeds of the latter by introducing impurities into the system.

PROOF.—During the epidemic in New York City in 1864-5, there was a decided general effort made to give protection to the people, in which nearly the entire city was vaccinated. Again, in 1867-8, another general effort was made, during the excitement and discussions on the subject at that time, to give protection to such as might have failed in the previous effort, and still remained unprotected; this, however, may be considered limited and partial. Again, in June, 1869, another special house to house effort was made, in which the whole city was districted, and every section visited, and the people vaccinated and revaccinated as occasion required. This work was performed by the appointment of four score inspectors, save one, "skilled experts," who performed the duty assigned them thoroughly; yet the small pox followed in their trail, increasing and widening in extent and fatality. Under these circumstances, the effort was renewed and carried through the fall and winter of 1869-70, with little abatement of the epidemic disease. Again, in 1870-71, a special effort of revaccination was carried through the season. It was general and thorough, and without any apparent effect on the progress of the noisome disease. Again, in the fall and winter of 1871-2, it was renewed and carried on vigorously until some time in February, when the services of the police surgeons were called in aid of the sanitary inspectors. Thus persistently and thoroughly has the work of free vaccination been carried out five times during the past eight years, bringing nearly the entire population of the city under its influence in each general and special effort. *Thus has the city been canvassed, and this vaccination process repeated no less than five times within this period.*

Now, look at the statistics for the last few years, in which these general and special efforts were mostly made: In 1867, the number of deaths from small pox were 19. In 1868, the number of deaths

from the same disease were 24. In 1869, the number of cases of small pox occurring in the city were 1,186, and the number of deaths 203. In 1870, the number of cases of small pox rose to 1,580, and the number of deaths from the same diseases to 293. In 1871 the number of cases, despite the efforts to stamp it out, rose to 3,084, and the total of deaths for the year to 805. At this rate of increase how often and how many times will the repetition of the vaccination process be required to stamp it out? Or, perhaps, the question better be asked, How long before the small pox will stamp out the population of the city under the present system of vaccination? Such statistics as these need no comment, and we shall offer none.

### ONE THOROUGH VACCINATION SUFFICIENT.

PROPOSITION XII.—One thorough vaccination, attended with all the true symptoms of vaccinia, is sufficient, with one possible exception, alluded to below.

PROOF.—It is, we believe, universally conceded, by the advocates of vaccination, that a person who has been thoroughly put under the influence of kine pox is as impervious to an attack of small pox as if he had had the latter disease. If this be so, one successful vaccination is manifestly equal, in its constitutional results, to an attack of small pox. It is alleged that there are those who may have repeated attacks of small pox, and that some persons have had this disease twice, and in some instances thrice. An individual with this susceptibility may as well not be vaccinated at all, for if he is so liable to *small pox*, after having SMALL POX, he certainly must be equally as liable to have small pox after having had kine pox. The latter cannot, in the nature of things, be more thorough in extinguishing the susceptibility than the small pox itself, with which, in the opinion of some, it is identical. Still, if, as many believe, the system under goes a change at the age of puberty, which may possibly be sufficient to overcome the protective influence of vaccination, it may be well, perhaps, to repeat the operation once during a lifetime. Your committee is not unanimous in the opinion that repetition, even to this extent, is necessary, for if it be so, then it is clearly expedient after the age of puberty to vaccinate all persons who have had the small pox previous to that age.

The inconsistency of the report of the committee to the Academy of Medicine on this subject may be properly alluded to under this head. It quotes, and implicitly indorses, certain authority as follows: "One thoroughly good vaccination to start with," says Seaton, and one careful vaccination after puberty, are all that is necessary for protection as complete as any known proceeding can give against small pox." Under the head of revaccination, it indorses



quite as unqualifiedly the alleged opinion of "Jenner himself, who thought that the security which the first vaccination imparted was in direct proportion to the degree of perfection of the vaccine process, and advised that vaccination should be repeated as long as any effect was produced." While remarking in another place that "it is well known that a single well performed vaccination, perfect in all respects, does, with few exceptions, suffice to secure for life an individual subject to it" (small pox), before concluding, the committee again informs its readers that, "in order to give complete and assured protection against small pox, every person not recently and thoroughly vaccinated should be at once revaccinated, and in subsequent life should *repeat this duty as often as every five or six years*, until in adult life the repeated revaccinations cease to have effect." From this it is to be implied that vaccination should be repeated as often as it will cause the formation of a pustule resembling that of kine pox, and this in some cases may be done every time an individual thinks of it, according to the experience of one of our members, as related in proof of proposition No. V. To such as indulge this view, and insist on this practice, your committee would suggest the expediency of taking a good life insurance policy before the process be carried too far, or repeated once too often.

Dr. Gregory, formerly physician to the London Small Pox Hospital, speaking of the repetition of vaccination, says: My persuasion is that you cannot thus multiply degrees of vaccine protection. Two imperfect vaccinations do not in medical arithmetic equal one perfect one; no, nor three, nor four, nor twenty. Modified, or imperfect revaccination, therefore, in my estimation = 0; they are worth nothing. They irritate the arm, and that is all—the constitution is uninfluenced by them. I may be wrong in this, and I am ready to correct the error if it can be shown to be an error; but all my experience goes to this. The doctrine of Proto and Deuto vaccination will soon merge into that of Trito, and ultimately, as time creeps on, into Poly-vaccination. Will a man be perfectly safe, that is to say, who is vaccinated or subjected to vaccination every year?" Those who support the present fashionable theory and practice of vaccination will please answer this question.—*Braithwaite's, Part II., pp. 59.*

Dr. Ceeley's investigations warrant the conclusion that "cow pox and small pox are not *bona fide* dissimilar, but identical, and that the vaccine disease is not the preventive of small pox but the small pox itself;" and hence the protective power of the former is equal to that of the latter under like circumstances.

Dr. Erasmus Wilson affirms: "Now, that which is true in regard to variola is equally true in regard to vaccinia; for variola and vaccinia are, in their essential nature, one and the same disease."

Dr. Jenner asserted the same doctrine, and frequently tested the protective power of vaccination, by inoculating the same individuals, after longer or shorter intervals of time, with fresh variolous matter, without producing any decided effect—the system being unsusceptible and impervious to small-pox contagion.

This doctrine is also confirmed by a very ancient Hindu document, which is to this effect, that when “the small-pox is produced by the fluid from the udder of a cow,” by inoculation on man, “there will then be no fear of small-pox as long as life endures.”

The opinions of eminent medical men, who have given attention to the subject of vaccination, possess their value; but some points presented by your committee are more difficult to controvert than mere opinion. If a person is susceptible to the disease of vaccinia more than once, it seems evident that he is also susceptible to more than one attack of small-pox, and that a person in whom such susceptibility cannot be overcome by one, or two vaccinations, is beyond the reach of possible protection. It is generally conceded when a child under the age of puberty has had the measles, scarlet-fever, chicken-pox, or mumps, he may ever after feel a sense of security against the repetition of these diseases. If this be true in respect to the various ills named, why not also in respect to that of vaccinia, or small-pox? Nevertheless, your committee would advise all who feel a sense of insecurity in consequence of the fact of having been vaccinated but once, and that prior to the age of puberty, to satisfy their apprehensions by a single repetition of the process, taking care to use only bovine lymph.

## CONCLUSION.

In presenting this report, your committee will not affect to ignore the honest difference of opinion existing in the minds of conscientious medical men upon the subject of vaccination. Besides those who favor indiscriminate vaccination and re-vaccination “from arm to arm,” there are many who do not approve of vaccination at all. A much-esteemed member of your society, when interrogated respecting his views, thus replied, “that he loathed the idea of infecting a healthy person with a foul disease to prevent the contracting of another; that had physicians taken the pains to annihilate variola and its deadlier symptoms, that have been spent on the dissemination of kine-pox, that scourge might, like the old plagues of Europe, have become only a matter of history. Ozone, chlorine and sulphur, all, or any one of them, will neutralize variolous poison, applied in proper conditions.”

“An English writer,” continues this enemy of vaccination, “has stated that there is really no kine-pox. That dirty grooms have diseased cows’ udders with a malady, the virus being imparted by



their hands, which were foul from handling horses having phthisis pulmonalis. If such is the real parentage of Jennerism," he further remarks, "we may as well leave it to the old school, and to our homœopathic friends who love to dabble in their 'similias.' The only argument in regard to bovine lymph which would weigh much with me is this: We take on the morbid habitudes of those with whom we associate intimately; becoming consumptive, nervous, anæmic, &c. The using of their blood, or any of its emanations, or other outcomes, is a subtle but most potent means of transferring their peculiar biological and pathological conditions. The patient is liable to get more than he bargained for. The bovine virus has its objections; but, on the whole, a good respectable cow is safer than ninety-nine one-hundredths of the human bull-heads on whom the doctors depend."

Please keep in mind that the foregoing is a quotation, and not the avowed opinion of your committee, excepting in so far as it recommends the use of bovine lymph over vaccination from arm to arm.

Dr. Carl Both, editor of "Good Health," Boston, ascribes the predisposition to small-pox to an undue proportion of albuminous to saline ingredients in the blood, and maintains that the keeping up of the proper balance would render the disease impossible. He claims that by acting upon this theory, not a single child under his care for the past fourteen years has been affected with small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, or other infectuous disease. Your committee does not vouch for the correctness of Dr. Both's hypothesis, but would remark that it is not impossible that too little salt with too much albumen might result in the generation in the system of those germs with which animalculæ, or poison of the atmosphere having the small-pox infection, might unite. But if this be so, the results of careful vaccination would seem to prove that true vaccinia destroys forever the tendency for the formation of such germs, or properties when the proper proportion between the albuminous matter and the blood salts is disturbed.

Some prominent homœopaths hold that the best way to bring the system under the influence of vaccinia is to give vaccine by the mouth and stomach, instead of abrading the cuticle for its introduction, and are practicing upon this plan, with what degree of success time must determine.

Health Officer Cochrane, of Brooklyn, evidently entertains no sympathy with this idea, for he has lately forbidden the inoculation of calves in that city for vaccinating purposes, because the meat of the cattle experimented upon finds its way into the market. If the homœopathic doctrine is correct, then it would be manifestly better for physicians to feed their patients on just such veal. It really seems unaccountable from the standpoint of any "pathy," in the esti-

mation of your committee, that any honest effort for the production of pure bovine lymph should be suppressed for such a reason, for kine-pox is common among cattle, and probably few beef-eaters have passed through life without having partaken of the flesh of cattle which have not at some period been under the influence of that disease. True, it is not a little shocking to æsthetic taste to contemplate the use of the flesh of calves which have been butchered while their udders present the wounds of denuded kine-pox vesicles, but in view of the fact that we are all striving to become infected with this very disease, is the course taken by the health officer alluded to quite consistent? It would at least seem far better to encourage rather than discourage the effort of physicians to generate and disseminate pure bovine lymph, then put, if necessary, some restrictions upon the disposition of the cattle upon which they have experimented.

In the present stage of investigation, your committee deems it unwise to take any extreme position upon the subject of vaccination. The community is confronted with small-pox. It is pretty generally believed that careful vaccination will stay its ravages, and we are disposed to place ourselves among the unqualified supporters of this opinion. The committee, which reported to the Academy of Medicine, tells the profession and public that no danger need be apprehended as to the possibility of conveying other diseases by vaccination. This same committee has the good sense to throw doubt upon this position before it concludes its report; your committee gives arguments and, what is better, *facts*, to prove that other diseases may be communicated by impure or spurious vaccination. We have, therefore, felt it to be a duty, while not in any measure opposing the Jennerian system, to caution the profession against the too common plan of "vaccinating from arm to arm." What is necessary is the adoption of such means as will guarantee to the community the purest lymph, and the greatest safety in the process of protecting the human system from the liability to that terrible scourge—small-pox. To this end your committee would urge upon the Board of Health the establishment, in or near this city, of a vaccine institution, where, under competent management, the bovine lymph, in its purity, may be constantly generated, carefully preserved and liberally dispensed. The expense would be comparatively trivial, and such a sanitary measure is only second in importance to supplying the city with water and gas. The care of our pleasure grounds and skating ponds adds greatly to the health and pleasure of our citizens; but, if vaccination possesses the value so generally claimed for it, the production and dissemination of pure lymph is of more value than any of these. If, therefore, this report should result in causing reasonable fear in the minds of the people of becoming infected by impure virus, and



the necessary caution in the professional practice of vaccinators and physicians, in obtaining and preserving in its purity the true bovine lymph, your committee will feel itself abundantly rewarded for its labors in preparing this paper.

Signed,

E. WHITNEY, M. D.,

*Chairman of Committee.*

EDWARD B. FOOTE, M. D.,

R. A. GUNN, M. D.,

*Professor of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy, Eclectic  
Medical College of the City of New York.*

J. DE MEYER, M. D.

NEW YORK ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY, March 20, 1872.

### FURTHER INTERESTING FACTS.

This report gave rise to an animated discussion, which, however, ended with a unanimous vote in favor of its acceptance. A resolution was also passed that this report should be in some way given to the public, and that it be offered to one or more of the metropolitan journals for publication. Many additional cases of spurious vaccination of a peculiar character, occurring in both this city and Brooklyn, were related, in one of which erysipelas was communicated to the children of several families by the virus taken from the arm of a child supposed to be healthy. Some of these victims died. In view of these startling facts it was unanimously conceded that the vaccinating from arm to arm process should be discountenanced and discontinued. It was said, and facts were brought to fully sustain the affirmation, that the pure bovine lymph can be easily obtained. According to the observation of some of the members it would seem that pregnant women may better not be vaccinated at all. Instances were given wherein miscarriage had resulted therefrom. In one case where a pregnant woman was vaccinated some weeks prior to confinement, the child at its birth was covered with kine-pox vesicles, which, however, disappeared in the course of a few days. This same mother has had children since, which at no time have been subject to pustules of any kind, showing that the vaccination must have caused the vesicles affecting the first child.





# PREVALENCE OF SMALL-POX—ITS CAUSE.

BY E. WHITNEY, M. D.

THERE is nothing extraordinary or unexpected in the continued prevalence of the loathsome disease termed variola, in this densely populated city, with its crowded tenements and noxious exhalations from its filthy streets. This general hygienic condition in its best aspect, is ever quite intolerable; to which must be superadded other direct causes of no ordinary power in deteriorating the general health—such as the vast amount of swill-milk, stale and decaying vegetables, sickly and poisoned fish, diseased and putrid meats of various kinds, which are so abundantly and freely distributed and used throughout the city. These all are but poorly calculated to arrest the progress and suspend the prevalence of this, or any other contagious disease.

General vaccination with impure and deteriorated virus, has, in many instances, proved insufficient and unprotective. Hence, for many years, variola has had a firm foothold here, and occasionally appeared in different sections, with its accustomed virulence and fatality.

It has often shown a decided tendency to become epidemic and uncontrollable; and has repeatedly created considerable alarm and called out vigorous efforts, apparently to arrest and limit its prevalence, if not, indeed, "to stamp it out entirely" by a system of general vaccination. And still this desirable object is unaccomplished—the people, to a considerable extent, remain unprotected, and are as much exposed to the variola now as they have been at any time for many years past.

## THE VALUE OF GENUINE VACCINATION.

Before proceeding with the discussion of this subject and the presentation of some facts touching the cause of its continued prevalence—let me say—I have no sympathy with the opposers of genuine vaccination, nor with those who persist in the use of impure,

vitiated and worthless virus, and carry on, under color of regular practice, an extended system of experimentation upon an innocent and confiding people. Nothing can be more objectionable, or more detract from the inestimable value of Dr. Jenner's great discovery, than spurious vaccination, and its consequent non-protective power. Nor can there be any Empericism, or fallacy, in medical practice much worse, or more detrimental and fatal, in a densely populated community.

But, on the contrary, I am firm in the belief, and so advise and advocate, that every individual should be properly vaccinated at an early age with pure, genuine virus, which will secure complete protection and immunity from the contagion of small-pox, on the same principle and to the same extent as having the original disease itself. The effect of the genuine vaccine disease engrafted upon the system, by vaccination, is the same, or similar to that of having the small-pox. If the one renders the system thereafter impervious to its contagion during life, so does the other, under like circumstances.

### HINDU LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT.

On this point there is some very ancient authority. It is found in a Hindu Medical Work on the subject of vaccination, which antedates even Jenner's discovery and is supposed to have been written in the sixteenth century. A single paragraph, taken from that part giving directions and describing the way and manner of vaccination, will suffice, whose translation, as furnished by the *London Lancet*, reads thus: "The small-pox produced by the fluid from the udder of a cow (gostany odakum), will be of the same gentle nature as the original disease, not attended by fear, not requiring medicine. The diet may be according to the pleasure of the patient, who may be inoculated once only, or two, three, four, five, or six times. The pock, when perfect, should be of a good color, filled with a clear liquid, and surrounded by a circle of red; there will then be no fear of small-pox as long as life endures. When inoculated with the fluid from the udder of a cow, some will have a slight fever for one, two, or three days, and with the fever there will sometimes be a slight cold fit; the fever will also be attended by a round swelling in the arm-pits and the other symptoms of the small-pox, but all of a very mild nature. There will be no danger, and the whole will disappear in three days."

There is no doubt of the correctness of this ancient Hindu document in affirming that the disease engrafted upon the system by genuine vaccination with pure lymph, fresh from the kine, remains permanent in its protective power, and "lasts as long as life endures."



## THE PROTECTIVE POWER OF PURE LYMPH.

"As a general rule," says the eminent Erasmus Wilson, "small-pox attacks but once in a life-time, but against this rule many exceptions have been recorded. Instances have been observed in which the disease has invaded a second, a third, and even so often as a sixth time.

"Sometimes the subsequent attack is as severe as the first; but usually the recurrent affections are remarkable for mildness and rapidity of course." \* \* \* "Now, that which is true in regard to variola is equally true in regard to vaccinia; for variola and vaccinia are, in their essential nature, one and the same disease."

Dr. Jenner, the acknowledged discoverer of vaccination and the reputed author of the practice originally instituted and established in Europe and America, firmly believed and advocated the same doctrine, and repeatedly sought opportunity of testing its protective power, after longer or shorter intervals of time, by inoculating the same patients with fresh variolous matter. In this he obtained no other than a negative effect—the system being rendered unsusceptible and impervious to its influence. Hence he recognized and confidently affirmed the great fact of its complete and permanent protective power; and very clearly and minutely defined the process by which it could be attained. Against any deviation or neglect of the essential principle which he had so clearly enunciated, he earnestly cautioned the profession; for even in his day some had neglected a proper observance of the process, and had consequently introduced many worthless and spurious vaccinations, to the great detriment of the discovery, and imminent danger to the community. This he deeply regretted. For while spurious vaccinations proved comparatively worthless, he showed conclusively that the true and genuine stood the most trying tests of subsequent exposure to the contagion of small-pox, limited its prevalence, and proved itself capable, when properly observed and carried out, not only of controlling the disease, but of stamping it out entirely. In this respect his views have been fully and repeatedly confirmed. On this point numerous facts might be cited. Let one at present suffice.

As late as the year 1839 the learned commission of vaccine on vaccination performed in France, after due investigation of the whole subject, affirm, "That the simultaneous vaccination of the mass instantly arrests the progress of the variolous epidemic."

Dr. Jenner also very clearly announces the fact that it was possible to propagate an affection by vaccination, conveying different degrees of security, according as that affection approached to, or receded from, the perfect normal standard of the kine-pox in its several progressive stages, corresponding in some degree to the intensity or

feebleness of the impression made upon the system by the engrafted disease, vaccinia. This might approach very near to the full and perfect standard of the genuine disease—and possess a good degree of protective power; or it might be so feeble and so far deviate from the correct and essential features and phenomena of the kin-pox as to possess no protective power at all; and that all such insufficient and spurious cases, however complicated and deleterious their character, were capable of producing their like, if the virus from such be taken and used to perpetuate the process; thus rendering through a vitiated virus subsequent vaccinations spurious and unreliable.

In his tract "On the varieties and modifications of the vaccine Pustule occasioned by an Herpetic State of the Skin," he says, "I shall here just observe that the most careful testimonies now lie before me, supporting my opinion that the Herpetic and some other irritative eruptions are capable of rendering variolous inoculation imperfect as well as the vaccine."

It is evident he recognized a two-fold objection extensively prevailing in his day to which he earnestly endeavored to direct attention. First—The insufficient protection afforded; and, second, the impurity of the vaccine, through which infectious and contagious eruptive diseases might be communicated. On this account he strenuously insisted on due watchfulness and care to prevent the utter failure and discontinuance of the great discovery, which may be regarded, when properly carried out, as one of the greatest achievements ever attained in the practice of medicine.

It also appears from some of his last papers on the subject, that from the frequent failure of vaccination to afford due protection—the repeated communication of infectious and contagious diseases through the medium of impure and vitiated virus—and the occasional epidemics of small-pox, occurring in different sections of the country, he was induced to renew and protract his investigations, to watch with untiring vigilance every phase of development, and did examine thoroughly and very critically the varied causes of complaint as well as the numerous forms of deviation from the regular normal appearance of the vaccine pustule, affecting and rendering the affection impure and hurtful. In this effort, no pains, nor time, nor expense were spared. His investigations were made in various sections and conducted with the most scrutinizing care and skill. No circumstance, however trivial, escaped his observation. Everything demanding attention received his special notice. By his diligence and perseverance the main causes of deviation and abnormal development were in most cases ascertained, and the errors which had arisen and resulted in such direful consequences so detrimental to the great discovery, and ruinous to the health of



patients, were fully presented. During these protracted efforts he gave a minute account of various cases in which it was shown that the great cause of complaint arose mainly from defective virus, which was ever hurtful and mischievous, and he therefore insisted upon the necessity of vaccine of absolute purity, possessing the specific attribute of the kine-pox unimpaired, on which he had relied and had so repeatedly shown its safety and tested its protective power. These facts he strenuously urged for the consideration of those who should thereafter adopt and pursue the practice of vaccination. How far the profession have observed his suggestions—carried out his instructions—and have avoided the errors of which Dr. Jenner so early and so persistently complained, will appear from the facts and arguments in the sequel.

### SPURIOUS VACCINATION.

The disease vaccinia is peculiar, and makes an impression upon the human organism similar to that of the small-pox in a mild form—is equally as protective, and so remains during life. In its propagation pure fresh virus is indispensable. Dr. Wilson says, "Recurrence to the primary lymph from the cow appears to us to be the only objectionable method of improving the current lymph and correcting the deterioration which has arisen from neglect of the precepts of Jenner. Lymph from this source must necessarily be pure, and its use should therefore be encouraged." The Sanitary Superintendent, Dr. E. Harris, in referring to spurious vaccination in his report says, "This experience of imperfect vaccination in a certain class of foreign residents has taught a remarkably important truth—the duty of good and the evil of imperfect, (spurious) vaccinations." There can be little doubt, a large proportion of vaccinations, here as well as elsewhere, have been spurious for the last twenty-five or thirty years. This has arisen from the use of impure, deteriorated, or defective and worthless virus collected, as much of it is, at our dispensaries, where children from the cellars, garrets, and purlieus of the city, half-clothed, half-fed, half-starved, scorbutic, and often in a filthy condition, resort in great numbers for gratuitous vaccination. Can virus collected from the arms of such a multitude be in accordance with the precepts of Jenner?

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF VACCINATION.

A brief reference to the history of vaccination and its result for the few years last past, as furnished by the Metropolitan Board of Health, will show to some extent the prevalence of various errors in the present system, and one at least of the fruitful sources of spurious vaccination.

From the first annual report of the Metropolitan Board of Health, it appears there were thirty-five deaths from small-pox in New York and one in Brooklyn during the second and third quarters of the year 1866, which is believed to have been less than for any similar period for many years. This favorable result is attributed to the increased number of vaccinations and the determined effort of the people to obtain immunity from the dreaded contagion.

"The epidemic prevalence of this malady," says the Sanitary Superintendent, "during the winter of 1864-'65, swept through the city in such a manner as to induce a healthful mental determination of nearly the entire population to be vaccinated." This purpose was pretty generally carried into effect. Previous vaccinations had in many instances signally failed. Many persons, excited and alarmed on account of the prevalence of small-pox in vaccinated subjects, sought, and obtained at that time, for themselves and families, the safer and better practice which consisted in employing pure vaccine derived directly from the kine. This was found to give complete and perfect protection—even under the severest and most trying degree of exposure to small-pox contagion. In several instances where one of a family had been taken down and prostrated by the disease, the others being vaccinated with pure vaccine derived from the kine, suffered no inconvenience from their continued exposure in nursing and caring for the sick—not one thus vaccinated is known to have suffered any symptoms of the disease even in its mildest form, termed varioloid.

"In the several chartered medical dispensaries for the poor in New York, in 1864-'65, there were nearly seventy thousand vaccinations." This is a very large number for the work of one season at these institutions, and is much larger than had been performed any one season prior to that time—and this multitude came up from the lower strata of society, for whose special benefit these institutions are established. In the higher classes probably an equal number, or more, were vaccinated by physicians in general practice, so that a large proportion of the population of the city in 1864-'65 received the benefit of some sort of vaccination. The closing part of this work was only finished a few months prior to the organization of the Metropolitan Board of Health and its commencement of operations in the early part of March, 1866.

"The dispensaries of the city," continues the Sanitary Superintendent, "by virtue of their recognized responsibility for the medical care of the indigent classes, have been almost the sole conservatories of vaccine virus, not only for the Metropolitan District but for the State." Dependence upon this impure source and fountain of vaccine is certainly very unwise; for it is believed by many to be a medium of communicating varied forms of disease as well as a fruitful source



of a vast amount of spurious vaccination which must ever tend to furnish material to extend and perpetuate epidemics of this noisome disease whenever once developed, or introduced into a densely populated community by the occurrence of some erratic case. To this impure quality of vaccine virus and spurious vaccination allusion is made in the report in terms of decisive import. Such, however, "is the importance to be attached to the quality and constancy of the supply of this prophylactic germ, that it must not be left to chance, nor even to the best charity alone. At best, as vaccination is now managed among the people, much is spurious, or needlessly worthless. The sooner the metropolitan district of this State provides for the systematic conservation of virus in full power, and for the more general application of it, the better it will be for life and welfare in the community." Such is the language of the report. Such, too, was the purport of the language of the memorialists, remonstrating against the use of deteriorated impure and vitiated virus, collected from the arms of children, gratuitously vaccinated at the dispensaries, and praying for the establishment of an institution for collecting, conserving, and furnishing pure vaccine for city and State. Such an institution is imperatively demanded, yet it was deemed unnecessary by the Sanitary Committee, notwithstanding the numerous facts and arguments urged in its favor.

In the report for 1867 it appears "that only nineteen deaths occurred from small-pox in New York, and but two in Brooklyn. This is the least number of fatal cases of small-pox that has occurred since 1829, and it includes all the cases that were sent from the ships in Quarantine to the Small-Pox Hospital on Blackwell's Island. During the year twenty-eight ships arrived at Quarantine, having small-pox on board; and in London, Liverpool, and several other ports this contagion was unusually prevalent. The good results of immediate domestic quarantine and disinfection have been abundantly witnessed in the *numerous cases of varioloid* and about *one hundred cases of variola* that have occurred in the city during the year."

From the report for the year 1868 it appears there were twenty-four deaths from small-pox—a slight increase on that of the preceding year. The number of cases that occurred during the year is not given. It, however, appears that the Board were not indifferent to the prevalence of this loathsome and fatal disease; for "on the 24th day of November, 1867, a resolution was adopted by the Metropolitan Board of Health as follows: 'Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of New York be respectfully requested to co-operate with this Board in securing a thorough system of vaccination in the public schools, and to facilitate the efforts of the Sanitary Superintendent for that purpose.'"

On or about the same time the M. B. H. was memorialized by Drs. Carnochan and Whitney, who remonstrated against the use of impure, deteriorated, and worthless virus, collected, as most of it is, at our dispensaries from the arms of children coming from the underground tenements—the sinks and sewers of the city—half-clad, half-fed, half-starved, scorbutic, and full of every conceivable form of scrofula; and praying for the establishment of an institution in the city of New York, or vicinity, for the collection of pure, reliable vaccine virus from the kine, and for preserving and furnishing the same in sufficient quantities for use in city and country.

The facts and arguments of that memorial were ignored—its prayer rejected—and assurance given that no better institution could be had than the dispensary system now in existence, which for more than thirty years has been vaccinating its thousands annually, and propagating its vaccine from arm to arm; and has, in the estimation of the Sanitary Committee, established the superiority of this process over bovine vaccination. Of the truthfulness of this positive assurance and claim of superiority in practical results, let facts decide.

#### THE INCREASE OF SMALL-POX RESULTING FROM IMPERFECT AND IMPURE VACCINATION.

During the year 1869, ending October 3rd, there occurred, as appears from the report, 593 cases of small-pox—and 107 deaths in New York—a large and rapid increase over the previous year. How many cases occurred in Brooklyn is not stated. There were, however, during the same period, nineteen deaths in that city from the disease. From this it appears that prior to October 3d there had occurred in the city 593 cases of small-pox which were distributed, according to the report, in 168 streets, and in no less than 410 different houses, which had become even at that time centres of contagion for the spread of the disease in every direction. Hence, during the last quarter of the year, ending December 31st, 1869—and consequently the second quarter after the general simultaneous vaccination of the people in June, 1869, there occurred 593 cases of small-pox, and 109 deaths in New York—and 12 deaths in Brooklyn—thus making a total to December 31st of 1,186 cases in New York, and 238 deaths, including twenty-two deaths which occurred in Brooklyn.

This surprising increase in the number of cases and the continued epidemic prevalence of the disease, under such peculiar and extraordinary circumstances, present no very high commendation of, nor any very favorable result in, the great effort of the Board's stamping out process. That the small-pox should prevail at all at this time is a very remarkable fact, occurring, as it does, so immediately after a



simultaneous effort of general vaccination throughout the city, in which eighty Inspectors, "*skilled experts*," were employed, in addition to the dispensary physicians and the co-operation of some two thousand or more resident physicians in general practice. In a well-conducted effort, so extensive and thorough, it is not probable that many escaped the observation of resident physicians, or the vigilance of the four-score vaccinators, so that a sufficient number were left unvaccinated to perpetuate the multiplication and spread of the contagion of small-pox within the limits of the city and its suburbs. If all the people, as intended, were in the main vaccinated, protected and rendered impervious to the contagion of small-pox, how could the epidemic have continued and spread in this community? If it be true that every district of the city was effectually canvassed, and the inmates of tenement houses carefully examined and each properly vaccinated whenever and wherever required—how is it possible the dreaded disease, small-pox, could find material on which to feed, extend, and multiply its noisome influence in a community so thoroughly protected and fortified against its ravages? Yet the small-pox prevails to an alarming extent in both this city and Brooklyn, where the Metropolitan Board of Health during the month of June, 1869, made a special, vigorous, and simultaneous effort to stamp it out entirely. "Nearly one hundred and seven thousand families and thirty thousand houses were visited—and not much less than half a million of the inhabitants of the city were brought under some sort of personal inspection or inquiry with reference to the evidence of, or necessity for vaccination. Upward of 30,000 persons were vaccinated," in addition to the thousands vaccinated at the dispensaries and by physicians in general practice. This was truly a great and noble work and ought to have given, if performed with pure and genuine virus, complete and permanent protection against small-pox contagion.

But, strange as it may appear, this universal effort made from house to house by "*skilled experts*," vaccinators, signally failed to arrest the progress of the variola, or to suspend its severity. In this result the Board were exceedingly disappointed and sought explanation in some unforeseen contingency without giving that consideration and scrutiny to the specific character of the virus used which the occasion demanded. It is well-known, and generally admitted, that deteriorated and defective virus will fail to afford due protection, or to arrest promptly the progress of the epidemic variola whenever it has once gained a firm foothold in a locality densely populated. Hence, for some time past, it has been on the increase. According to the statistics on the subject, the aggregate number of cases occurring in New York for the year ending December 31st, 1870, is one thousand five hundred and eighty; and the number of deaths, two

hundred and ninety-three, which far exceeds that of any year since the epidemic which prevailed in 1864-5. The number of cases occurring in Brooklyn for the same year, 1870, is —; and the number of deaths, —. When the call was made at the Health Office in Brooklyn, the statistics on this subject were refused, and that, too, while every bed in the hospital was filled, and booths, or tents, were in process of erection for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing number of small-pox patients. Hence we are warranted in saying that this surely is a small pox record more appalling than any that has ever occurred in that city. From its continued prevalence, and the statistics of the year last past, it must be apparent that the people of that city as well as of New York have been and still remain, to a considerable extent, unprotected, and may continue to suffer repeated epidemics of this noisome and dreaded disease, despite the efforts now making to stamp it out.

#### PERFECT IMMUNITY FROM SMALL-POX IS ATTAINABLE.

"The habits of the contagion," says the Sanitary Superintendent, "remain unaltered, but vaccination has taken away its power to destroy, or to harm. It attacks only such persons as are unvaccinated, or imperfectly vaccinated. We speak of imperfect vaccination because in each recurring epidemic the test of the protective power of *vaccinia* is so brought to bear as to prove: 1. That there is such a thing as a standard vaccinal protection which can abide the test of all degrees of exposure to small-pox contagion. 2. That there is, at the same time, a certain minority of vaccinated persons that cannot wholly resist the operation of the contagion."

According to this principle there is then such a thing as complete and perfect immunity from small-pox contagion, which can be attained by correct and proper vaccination. Pure and genuine virus, derived directly from the kine, possessing in full power the original specific attribute, is the one great essential in the production of the disease *vaccinia*, which is engrafted upon the system, or so infects the entire organism as to render it unimpressible and impervious to the small pox contagion. All else pertaining to the operation in a healthy subject is merely accidental, and has nothing whatever to do with the character of the disease; for *vaccinia* is the sole result and product of a specific virus, without which it never occurs.

And there is, too, such a thing as imperfect, spurious vaccination, which affords little or no protection, and is the necessary and inevitable result of the use of impure, deteriorated and worthless vaccine virus. Of this fact the present long continued epidemic of variola, flourishing as it has in vaccinated subjects, is abundant proof. Ob-



servation has also confirmed repeatedly the same fact, and the bitter experience of thousands have attested to its truth. Yet thousands of vaccinations continue to be made from year to year with virus, not only destitute of its original attribute of the kine-pox, but possessing, not unfrequently, an additional quality, the taint or germ of some eruptive or other loathsome disease.

## PERNICIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF VACCINATING FROM ARM TO ARM.

While the vaccine virus furnished for general use is propagated from arm to arm and collected in great abundance at the dispensaries, from children coming up from the lowest strata of society, generally scorbutic, and infected with some of the varied forms of disease there prevailing, how can any other than spurious vaccination be expected? Can the small-pox be stamped out and utterly suppressed by the use of such deteriorated and defective virus? From the statistics already referred to—the character and quality of the virus used—and the continued prevalence of the disease, must it not be inferred that a considerable proportion of the vaccinations for some time past have proved spurious and unprotective. To what else can the failure of the Metropolitan Board of Health to suppress the noisome disease be attributed?

The number of cases of variola, occurring in the vaccinated, compared with that of the unvaccinated, furnishes an exceedingly interesting and instructive fact, which very clearly exhibits the character of vaccinations that have been made in time past, and gives us the most decisive evidence of their non-protective power that can be adduced. In this city and vicinity for the twenty-five or thirty years last past, the vaccine virus generally used has been furnished by the dispensaries, mainly the Eastern—the great vaccine institution of the city—as already referred to—so that whatever imperfections may now exist, or may yet be discovered relative to the same, must be set down and charged to the defective quality of the virus from this source. On account of this defect, the charge has been not unfrequently made that a large proportion of vaccinations of late years are spurious and unprotective, and this charge has as often and positively been denied. But in this epidemic the matter has been fully tested—and the question is intelligently and decisively settled. “In the recent epidemic outbreaks of small-pox in New York,” says the Sanitary Superintendent, “no less than two out of every three of the patients had been vaccinated.” Here, then, is a practical test of the character and value of vaccinations as they are, and have been performed in the City of New York. Compared with the whole number of cases of small-pox, occurring during its recent epidemic

prevalence in this city, the imperfect and spurious vaccinations in persons attacked with the disease were sixty-six and two-third per cent., according to the data furnished by the report of the Metropolitan Board of Health for 1869. Is not sixty-six and two-thirds a percentage sufficiently large to satisfy the most incredulous as to the defective character of vaccinations performed by the use of deteriorated and worthless virus, collected, as most of it is, from the arms of children who frequent the dispensaries for gratuitous vaccination? This unnecessary and cruel exposure of life is justly chargeable to the present system as now managed and generally carried on under color of regular Jennerian practice. Of the three thousand and eighty-four cases of small-pox occurring in New York in 1871, there were eight hundred and five deaths. To what purpose all this suffering and this sacrifice of valuable lives, if genuine vaccination, as affirmed by the Sanitary Superintendent, "takes away its power to destroy, or to harm."

#### THE FORCIBLE REMOVAL OF SMALL-POX PATIENTS FROM THEIR HOMES.

And to all this suffering and loss there must be added another item, more cruel and unjustifiable—the invasion of families and the forcible removal of these unfortunate patients, which, from the very nature of the case, and the unfeeling and indifferent manner by which it is accomplished, must necessarily inflict an incalculable amount of suffering. How can the sick be forcibly taken from their residences, where they are surrounded by sympathizing friends and all the endearments and comforts of home, to the filthy and loathsome hospital on Blackwell's Island, without endangering life and diffusing by the process the small-pox contagion to a far greater extent? To the sick how depressing and detrimental the effect, to be, like criminals, torn away from friends, deprived of their knidly offices, and exposed to the discomforts and dangers attending the transfer from the sick room to and across the ferry to the pest-house, without one solitary sympathizing friend to assuage their pains, or administer to their necessities. Under such circumstances, what solicitude and anxious forebodings must fill the minds of those thus rudely separated from loved ones, especially when they recall the fact that a large percentage of those patients forcibly removed from their homes to the pest-house never more return to greet their relatives. A few days, and, it may be, the last sad scenes are past, and the last sad rites performed. The story is told—mourning and desolation have come, like a thief in the night, to the survivors of that once happy home. And for what cause, and to what purpose, has all this sadness, sorrow and suffering been imposed upon an innocent and



unoffending family? Can any just cause be assigned, or any satisfactory excuse rendered, if the declaration of the Metropolitan Board of Health be sincere and truthful, which is unqualified, positive, and to the effect as follows: "The small-pox contagion remains unaltered, but vaccination takes away its power to destroy, or to harm." According to this principle, the means of protection are ever at hand and can be promptly applied, so that the inmates of every household, where a case of small-pox may occur, can be entirely freed from danger and secured from harm. And, again, we are assured that disinfectants now in use possess the magic power of decomposing and neutralizing the contagious principle of disease, and rendering it innocuous and harmless, so that all danger which might otherwise arise to affect the surrounding community can be abated and the contagion can be controlled, limited and destroyed. There can then be no necessity for the invasion of families and the removal of small-pox patients, nor any advantage arising from it. The practice is ever attended with serious evils, and must, with our present knowledge on the subject, be considered unwarranted and mischievous.

#### THE VIRUS NOT THE INSTRUMENT.

But let us inquire again what is the cause assigned by the savans of the profession for the many serious evils arising primarily from imperfect, spurious vaccinations, which are being unnecessarily inflicted on an innocent and unsuspecting people. The cause—though boldly and confidently assigned—is too frivolous, and would be unworthy a moment's consideration, were it not deceptive and intended to cover up the real source of evil from which come the most disastrous results. The Sanitary Superintendent, quoting from a foreign document, says that "Dr. Marson, after twenty years' experience in the London Small Pox Hospital, reports that three thousand and ninety-four of his patients in that institution had previously been vaccinated; but that out of that number only two hundred and sixty-eight presented good marks of their vaccination;" and adds, "that in many of these patients the vaccination had been performed by bungling operators." Mark the language, "bungling operators"—the scape-goats for the sins of the profession. But what has the manner, or the bungling operation of inserting the virus on the arm, or on the leg, or on any other part of the body, to do with the character and genuineness of the principle operative in the production of the engrafted disease vaccinia, on which the protective power of vaccination depends. Can the lancet, the scalpel, the vaccinator, the knife, or any other instrument, affect the character and quality of the virus used in any given case so as to change, or vary its specific result? The character of vaccination, whether genuine or spurious,

depends upon the quality of the virus used, and not upon the instrument employed in the operation, or the unskillful manner of its performance. Pure fresh virus, possessing in full power the specific attribute of the kine-pox, is the one great essential and indispensable requisite in successful vaccination. All else in healthy children is merely incidental and cannot alter or affect the result.

## STAMPING OUT SMALL-POX WITH GOOD TOOLS AND DEFECTIVE VIRUS.

To ensure success in stamping out the small-pox, and avoid such disastrous results as are already noticed, the Metropolitan Board of Health appointed four-score vaccinators—save one—"skilled experts," and furnished them with new and highly burnished instruments; and, in June, 1869, made a simultaneous effort of house-to-house vaccination throughout the city. What has been the result? The epidemic small-pox has followed in their trail, rioting and multiplying its victims in vaccinated subjects, and has continued its ravages with increasing virulence some three years or more. Can any test be furnished more decisive in determining the character and value of vaccinations which have been, and are still being performed in New York and its suburbs? Is it possible to have a more emphatic condemnation of the present system than the fact that the epidemic small-pox is not only prevailing, but affecting and embracing among its victims a large proportion of vaccinated subjects. Under such circumstances must it not be evident even to the most careless observer that the present system of practice has so degenerated and become so defective in its most essential attribute as to result in a wide and unpardonable departure from the correct principle and practice of vaccination. To the better and more correct system then a speedy return is imperatively demanded. To delay is criminal and must involve a fearful responsibility. The epidemic small-pox is prevailing not only here, but in many sections of our own and foreign countries, carrying off its thousands annually. And shall not the antidote to its devastating progress—the genuine lymph derived directly from the kine, in absolute purity, be properly applied to arrest its prevalence and stay its ravages.

## DR. MORRIS ON THE SITUATION.

Says the Sanitary Superintendent, Dr. Morris, referring to the utter failure of the special efforts adopted to arrest its progress, "upon a reinspection of the persons upon whom secondary vaccinations have been made, it seems worthy of remark that a very large propor-



tion have proved successful ; and, in this fact, may, perhaps, be found some explanation as to the cause of the recurrence of the present epidemic."

### THE ADMISSION AND ITS LESSON.

We have here a very frank and full admission of the primary cause of failure in the efforts which have been made in years and months past to control the epidemic and stamp out the disease entirely.

This admission is made from a full survey of the whole subject and a clear conviction of the remarkable fact that "a very large proportion" of those who have been vaccinated are unprotected and subject to the impression of small-pox contagion. A more truthful remark, or a more important fact, drawn as it is from the accumulated evidence obtained from practical results, could not be advanced. It gives a clear idea of the essential character of vaccinations as exhibited from actual results, and admits and verifies the declaration that a very large proportion are defective and spurious. Hence it may be observed that the objection to the present deteriorated and effete system of practice as exhibited in this discussion, is frankly admitted in the declaration that a very large proportion of vaccinations have proved spurious and unprotective, and are now assigned as the primary cause of the recurrence of the present epidemic. No other conclusion could be justly drawn from the facts herein cited. Nor can the present system, which, after repeated trials, has proved itself wanting in protective power, be conscientiously sustained and commended to the profession and the people on account of any "superiority in practical results to bovine vaccination." Nor can it be judged otherwise than extremely faulty and decidedly detrimental. From the facts and practical tests already adduced it will appear evident that its great superiority consists only in the dissemination of various evils which might and would be avoided in the adoption of a correct system of practice—a system, having for its base pure genuine virus, possessing in full power the specific attribute of the kine-pox that has proved effectual and is known to afford complete and permanent protection.

### LET US RETURN TO THE GENUINE AND BETTER MODE OF PRACTICE.

Such are some of the facts and considerations showing the necessity of superseding the present system by a return to a better mode of practice—the invariable use of pure and genuine vaccine derived from the kine, which has proved effectual and stood the severe test of subsequent small-pox inoculation without inconvenience, or harm. Such, too, are some of the considerations, showing the neces-

sity of establishing an institution in this city, or vicinity, for the special purpose of collecting, conserving, and furnishing pure genuine vaccine from the kine in quantities sufficient for general use in city and country.

## VIRGIN LYMPH—ITS EFFICIENCY—AND HOW OBTAINED.

Bovine virus from the natural kine-pox—usually termed virgin lymph, is the one great essential and indispensable requisite in successful vaccination. This, in its specific attribute and effect on the human organism, differs very materially from that cow-pox virus, obtained by inoculating the cow with the worn-out, humanized vaccine, called retro-vaccination. Virus thus obtained is comparatively worthless, and also from that cow-pox virus obtained by inoculating the cow with the small-pox matter, taken from the human subject. Virus obtained in this way is decidedly objectionable. We therefore speak of the natural kine-pox as it occurs spontaneously in the herd, the only true source of vaccine virus, which being kept alive and propagated by transmission from heifer to heifer, constitutes the true and genuine virgin lymph, the best preventive of small-pox. This, derived fresh from the kine, is essentially safe, reliable, and permanent in its influence. Its direct and only effect on the human organism is the production of the true and genuine disease, vaccinia, on which protective power depends. It never introduces or awakens any other disease to endanger the future health and well-being of the person vaccinated, and can be employed on all occasions when it is proper and safe to vaccinate either babe, child, or adult, without fear of abnormal, or distressing developments.

From my observation and experience in its employment for some time past, I have not discovered, or known any other disease to follow. Says the eminent surgeon at the head of the Vaccine Institution at Boston Highlands, Dr. H. A. Martin: "There have been now, at least, 400,000 revaccinations made in this country with cow-pox (Beaugency) virus, and no case of death, no case of erysipelas, no case of post-vaccine variola, have been reported among them." The "Beaugency virus," here referred to, is the natural kine-pox virus, pure and genuine, as the above results of its use clearly show.

In an institution established for the purpose of collecting, conserving, and furnishing pure vaccine it can be perpetuated from heifer to heifer and furnished as it may be needed in quantities sufficient to answer any demand in city or country. The supply can be made abundant and sufficient to vaccinate the world if desired.



Such an institution is now in successful operation at Boston Highlands, and can supply every physician and vaccinator in the country with pure, fresh virgin lymph. Hence there is no necessity for continuing the use of secondary, long humanized, deteriorated, and spurious virus on any occasion whatever.

Let the course here suggested be adopted, and pure virgin lymph be invariably used, and all our children regularly vaccinated at an early age, and then we might hope to see the small-pox banished from among us, never more to return and prevail in an epidemic form.





# VACCINATION.

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BY R. A. GUNN, M. D.

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THE question of vaccination is one which is, at the present time, occupying the attention of the people more than it has ever done before. The continuance and spread of small-pox, in spite of all the efforts that have been made to stamp it out by vaccination, have naturally caused many to inquire whether this process was really a prophylactic against small-pox or not. While, on the other hand, the injurious results that have so frequently followed vaccination have created serious alarm among the masses of the people who would rather remain unvaccinated than expose themselves and children to the danger of being inoculated with other diseases, which are, in many respects, far worse than small-pox itself.

That the minds of the people have been exercised to no slight degree upon these points there can be no doubt; and it therefore becomes the duty of the medical profession to deal with these vexed questions with promptness and candor. This is not an age of equivocation, and a simple denial of facts will not satisfy thinking minds. When any class of men announce that vaccination, as at present practised, does not communicate disease, and is a perfect prophylactic against small-pox, can the people accept their assertions as correct, in the face of all the facts that have come to light even in this city during the past winter? No! they will tell us that facts are stubborn arguments, and they must have further proof to convince them.

In a recent report of a committee to the Eclectic Medical Society of the City of New York this entire subject was considered, and given to the public in such a shape as was calculated to open their eyes to the fallacies that have so long pervaded the medical profession. While that report contained sufficient evidence in support of the positions taken by the committee, many valuable facts were omitted for want of space. The object of this paper is, therefore,

to add further evidence to that already furnished, and if possible to arouse the community to a proper sense of the dangerous and imperfect system of vaccination at present employed in all our large cities.

### EVIL RESULTS OF VACCINATION.

The following summary of evidence (under oath), taken by a committee of the British House of Commons in 1871 on the subject of vaccination, speaks for itself:

Dr. Collins testifies—"After twenty years' experience as a vaccinator, during six or seven small-pox epidemics, I have ceased to vaccinate ten or twelve years; and gave up at least £500 sterling a year by so doing. Consider vaccination not only useless but an evil. Have often seen children with syphilitic eruptions after vaccination whose parents were free from any taint. Have seen children hitherto healthy, with no trace of struma, after vaccination assume a scrofulous character, with every characteristic of a strumous habit. Erysipelas and phlegmanous ulcers are also by no means uncommon after vaccination. In a particular case I vaccinated an apparently healthy child with lymph from the National Vaccine Establishment, and on the 8th day, from a true Jennerian vesicle on its arm, I—at the request of the parents, friends of the first—vaccinated another healthy child; and three weeks after both children were brought to me, having decided syphilitic symptoms; when, on examination, it was found that the father of the first child had constitutional syphilis, and that his other children were born covered with syphilitic eruptions. The parents of the second child were perfectly healthy, but the syphilis had been conveyed to it by the vaccine lymph taken from the other. Was once consulted by some young ladies who had been vaccinated from their brother, who had been suckled by a syphilitic nurse, and, on being discovered, it was found that her own child had the usual syphilitic symptoms. Mr. Liston and Mr. Morton both agreed with me that these ladies had true syphilis."

Dr. Pearce testifies—"I have given special attention to the subject of vaccination for eighteen years. The reports of the Small Pox Hospital for sixteen years, ending 1851, show the proportion of vaccinated cases to total admissions to be 53 per cent; in 1851-2, 66 per cent.; 1854-6, 71 per cent.; 1859-60, 78 per cent.; 1861-6, 81 per cent.; and in 1868, 84 per cent. Returns show a large increase of consumption. Know a lady and her elder brother, unvaccinated, the only survivors of ten children, the rest having been vaccinated, five of whom died in childhood, and the remaining three at from fifteen to eighteen, of consumption. The mother always attributed the deaths of her eight younger children to vaccination. The ances-



tors on both sides for generations were all healthy country people. There was no defect of nutrition—no rebreathed air of workshops. When vaccinating as I formerly did extensively, I was astonished to find I had unwittingly transmitted syphilis from lymph supplied by the Jennerian Institution; I had proved that no taint existed in the parents; had twenty or twenty-four such cases within four years at Northampton." Referring to the 540 practitioners who are reported to have taken grounds against his position, he says: "They are chiefly surgeons of hospitals, who perhaps have never vaccinated or been in general practice; the answers of such men are of no value." "Mr. Whitehead, of Manchester, reports several instances of syphilitic taint, transferred from a true Jennerian vesicle. This is positive evidence, but men may say that they have never seen what they never have had an opportunity of seeing. Dr. Ballard has stated that a true Jennerian vesicle cannot be distinguished from a vesicle containing syphilis."

Dr. Garth Wilkinson testifies—"I have vaccinated to within the last five years without thinking about it. Vaccination is so entirely *secundum artem* the large majority cannot think about it. We are continually coming upon venerable fallacies; but on this question prestige and interest prevent investigation. Six positive cases are worth 10,000 negatives, which go for nothing." Dr. Siljeström, a man of great scientific eminence, and a legislator in Sweden, says: "I have always felt that if vaccination does not stand against small-pox it is *nil*; if it does so stand, millions to one but what it imparts other and more powerful disorders into the system. My own coachman's child took erysipelas concurrently with vaccination, and both the child and its mother who was nursing it, who had had small-pox, died of the erysipelas. Knew a case of an eminent literary man, crippled with a skin affection, a kind of eczema of the leg, ever since being revaccinated four years since. Have often, almost daily, heard parents say, 'My children have never been the same since they were vaccinated.'"

Mr. G. S. Gibson testifies—"I attribute the large increase in infant mortality to their being poisoned in the first year of life, in a greater proportion than formerly, by vaccination. Constitutional diseases may be perpetuated in the same way, and the foundation laid for tubercular disease of some kind." Professor Ricord says (*Journal des Connaissances Médicales*, 10th March, 1865): "At first I repulsed the idea that syphilis could be transmitted by vaccination, but to-day I hesitate no more to proclaim the reality."

Mr. Emery testifies—"I have seen much suffering, ulcerous sores, etc., from vaccination. Vaccination is matter taken from the cow, put into the arm, and from arm to arm for thirty years; and all manner of dirt is scraped out of one person's arm and put into

another. I had a healthy child, eleven weeks old, vaccinated in May, 1869. On the ninth day it became very ill, the arm, body, and legs swollen all over red and green, having no rest night or day till its death, a month after. Have since seen from 100 to 150 healthy children suffering immediately after vaccination, and parents who have lost their children by it."

Mr. Covington mentions a case of a healthy child, twelve months old, in whom syphilitic appearances showed themselves five weeks after vaccination. His own child was taken ill immediately after vaccination, and suffered for nine months, and afterwards from abscesses, etc., for four years. In a third case, a child of four months immediately broke out with sores and died in the tenth month. Believes vaccination conveys consumption, syphilis, and many other like diseases.

Mr. Addison deposes "that on the 8th September, 1870, he had a sound, pure, and healthy child, three months old, vaccinated against his will, to obey the law; three days after it broke out in a fearful rash, which continued to increase for eight weeks, when it died."

Rev. Hume Rothery testifies—"I had a healthy child which suffered from a long series of very large boils, coming on three months after vaccination, which I believe to be the cause. Another case, a healthy child, nine months old when vaccinated, was afterwards afflicted with sore eyes for many years, and they are still weak; it being afterwards found that sore eyes prevailed in the family from which she was vaccinated. A third case, a fortnight after vaccination (at nine months old) became covered with an offensive eruption all over the body; is now three years old, and has seldom, since, been free from sores and scabs; her elder brother, not vaccinated, father and mother, and families are remarkably healthy. A fourth case, now four years old, healthy before vaccination, has never since been so; nine months after foul sores broke out, which continued, and appear likely to continue; there is a hole in one hand, and the foot probably crippled or life. In a fifth case, vaccinated when a babe, the family on all sides perfectly healthy, cancer appeared on the chin at eighteen months old, and she lost the left breast from cancer at thirteen; it was discovered, on inquiry by the doctor, that the mother of the child, from whom the lymph was taken, had a cancer of which she subsequently died. A sixth case, exceedingly well before vaccination, was never well afterwards; its flesh rotted on the slightest scratch of a pin, and now and then broke out in scales and sores; it died when twenty months' old. Six other children were vaccinated from this child, not one of whom survived. A seventh case, a healthy baby before vaccination, became ever after an indescribable sufferer, and died at nearly eight, his body being literally rotten; father, mother, and five other children all remarkably healthy.



In an eighth case, a healthy boy, four months old, was vaccinated; three months afterwards the arm began to break out, the head was one mass of sores, which continued for twelve months; believe it was syphilis; there had never been any disease in parents' families. All the above cases were in Middleton. Could mention a considerable number of other cases, eight—all of deaths—from Rochdale; twelve from Smallbridge, many others in Scotland; all attested before magistrates, with the understanding that they were to be laid before this committee. Could mention a number of other cases, but the sufferers are afraid to come forward. A child may appear healthy, but no one can say where a latent taint exists. Dr. Nicholson, a pro-vaccinator, writes: "If a case can be made out against vaccination, by all means let the law be repealed:" whilst Dr. Blanc, also a vaccinator, says: "Persons who deny such transmission are greater foes to vaccination than its declared adversaries."

Mr. R. B. Gibbs refers to Mr. Henry Lee, a great authority on syphilitic diseases, who states that he could come to no other conclusion but that syphilis was communicated by vaccination in the Rivalta cases.

Mr. Simon testifies: "There is not the least doubt that syphilis has, on several occasions, been communicated on the continent by what was purported to be vaccination. Lymph ought not to be taken from a subject who can be reasonably supposed syphilitic. A vaccinator should assume that such would convey syphilis. Practically, we should expect lymph taken from a syphilitic child would be syphilitic, as the safe side to err on, without attaching importance to negative experiments."

Dr. Bakewell testifies: "There is a very strong opinion among medical men in the West Indies that leprosy has been communicated by vaccination. They often apply to me for lymph from England, though there would be an equal chance of English lymph being contaminated by syphilis: have seen several cases of leprosy, where vaccination seemed to be the only explanation: have a case now, a child from India, a leper, both parents being English; saw another, a creole of Trinidad, also of English parents. Sir Ranald Martin agreed with me that the leprosy arose from vaccination. Have seen several cases of leprosy resulting from vaccination, arrived at the conclusion with reluctance in the face of difficulties. Have no doubt death resulted from syphilis, produced by vaccination, in the Rivalta cases. There are two hundred and fifty-eight such cases mentioned by Lancereaux as having occurred in France, Italy, and Germany. Think there are others of which we have no knowledge."

Mr. Hutchinson testifies: "I was asked by the medical man to examine into the communication of syphilis to several adult servants and shopmen who were re-vaccinated, on the 7th of February last,

from one child, lent to the operator from a public vaccinating station. Of thirteen so vaccinated, whom I saw on the 4th or 5th of April, eleven had on their arms sores characteristic of syphilis—the primary sore of syphilitic contagion; the two who escaped were the first vaccinated. A few days later saw the child (six months old), from whom the lymph was taken, and though it appeared in good health, I should have no doubt it was the subject of inherited syphilis; it had an eruption on the body, then very slight indeed, and probably not present at the time of vaccination."

If space would permit we could present a very large amount of additional testimony, compiled by Professor Joseph Jones, M. D., of Nashville, Tenn., and published in a large pamphlet in 1867. He gives the sworn testimonies of many prominent physicians in the Southern States, which go to prove, beyond doubt, that many hundreds of soldiers had suffered from syphilis caused by vaccination. These facts were proved by careful investigations, which revealed the presence of constitutional syphilis in the persons from whose arms the virus was taken.

Even at the present time report after report comes to us of similar cases occurring in this city. One physician reports three cases of well-marked syphilitic inoculation by lymph taken from the arm of a child in the neighborhood, whom he supposed to be healthy. He had been the family physician of the child's parents, and felt confident that they had no such disease. On investigation, however, he found that another physician had treated both parents for syphilis, and that they were still suffering from the constitutional effects. The children he vaccinated from this child (his own child being one), were perfectly healthy, as were also their parents' families.

Another physician, of extensive experience, reports two cases of well-marked primary syphilitic sores on the arms of a lady and gentleman, who were vaccinated with lymph from a child, since found to be unhealthy, after the bovine virus failed to take.

### THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF VACCINATION NOT EFFICIENT.

That vaccination, as at present performed, is not a prophylactic against the ravages of small-pox, is self-evident to every one who has examined the statistics on this subject. The history of the efforts to stamp out small-pox in this city, and their results, are given in full in the paper of Dr. Whitney, recently published. The reports of the Small-Pox Hospital of London, for the last thirty years, show that the proportion of vaccinated cases to the total admissions, ranged from fifty-three to eighty-four per cent., and that the mortality among the vaccinated was as great in proportion. In Sweden, in 1850-52,



inclusive, five thousand three hundred and ninety-eight persons died from small-pox, all vaccinated. Doctors Pearce, Wilkinson, Gibbs, and others, testified to the same effect on this point before the British House of Commons' Committee, heretofore mentioned.

In addition to these facts, we may add that the large majority of adults contracting small-pox in this country have been vaccinated and re-vaccinated; for it is, and has been the fashion, in rural districts, as well as in large towns and cities, not only to vaccinate children, but also to re-vaccinate every five or seven years.

### DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG MEDICAL MEN.

It is only natural that medical men should hold different opinions upon questions that cannot be laid down as established facts, and yet we often find those in the profession who never have any opinions of their own, but rely with implicit faith upon the theories of their forefathers, without thinking of making an investigation for themselves. This class is larger than many would suppose, and they are always the first to cry down any effort at reform. Many of this class are found denying the possibility of communicating disease by vaccination, and when they are asked to give a reason for the faith that is in them, they can only say that they have never seen such cases. Among the large number of physicians with whom I have conversed on this subject, I have found but very few, indeed, who have ever given the subject any attention. They have performed vaccinations because it was the fashion to do so, and they were paid for it. Many of them had never seen the case after introducing the virus into the arm. They have been taught that vaccination would prevent small-pox, and they concluded that such was the case. I feel convinced that those with whom I conversed are no exceptions to the general rule, and this is why so many are found to favor the negative arguments on this subject. A man has no right to deny the existence of a thing he has never seen, but should always be willing to investigate the truth. The evil results following vaccination, which are presented in the report of the committee to the Eclectic Medical Society of New York City, and those offered in this paper, present a sufficient amount of positive proof to establish the communicability of disease by vaccination, independent of all the negative results that can be produced. While many of the English physicians took grounds against our present position, they all acknowledged that syphilis "might *possibly* be communicated by vaccination," but they had never seen such cases; and they further admitted that they would not, knowingly, vaccinate their own children with lymph from the arm of a syphilitic person. Here, then, is a candid admission that

they have no faith in their own theory, and yet they will continue to inflict untold of misery upon thousands who have confidence in their honesty.

The fallacies and inconsistencies of the report on this subject to the New York Academy of Medicine have already been criticised, and placed before the public; but, while on this point, I would ask, if the society that adopts that report would be willing to practice what they preach, and vaccinate their own families with lymph taken from the arms of syphilitic patients in Charity Hospital.

Again, we find upon investigation, that many persons object to vaccination on the ground that it impairs the health, and induces scarlet-fever, measles, consumption, &c. All who hold this belief have arrived at the conclusion after investigation, where the process was carried on from arm to arm. That disease can be directly communicated by vaccination has, we think, been fully proven, and, with the investigations that have been made, we cannot but admit that the seeds of consumption may be sown, which may soon ripen and carry off its victim. In short, the conveying to the system of such taints, as we have already mentioned, must, inevitably, so reduce the vital powers as to leave the system in such a weak condition that it becomes susceptible to all kinds of disease.

Enough has been said on this subject to arouse the public to a due sense of the importance of caution, and, if we are correctly informed, these discussions have had a good effect upon the Metropolitan Board of Health, who have now detailed physicians to collect vaccine virus *from none but perfectly healthy children*. While this is another admission in favor of our position, yet more must be done if we wish for good results. We expect, however, that the public will have to suffer still more before any further admission is made by the "powers that be." The same old fogysm pervades the medical profession to-day that was manifested when Harvey announced his discovery of the circulation of the blood; the same reluctance to give up their long cherished, though false notions, of vaccination, as was shown when the reasonings of reformers, and the clamor of the outraged people, compelled them to abandon the lancet; and, later, when Professor Bennett proved that mercury did not act on the liver so as to increase the flow of bile.

### CAN VACCINATION BE MADE EFFECTIVE?

In the face of all that has been said on this subject, and the continued spread of small-pox in our midst, it is only natural that the people should ask this question. Vaccination, as practiced, has not been proof against small-pox, because in the passage from arm to arm the virus has become deteriorated. When introduced into the



ern it often produces a local sore, without constitutional symptoms, and thus affords no protection, and often, when a constitutional effect is produced, it is the result of some inoculated poison. The report to the Eclectic Medical Society, and also Dr. Whitney's paper, take up this point in full. They take the rational ground that no vaccine virus should be used only that taken from the cow; that when the true symptoms of vaccinia were produced, the system would be as fully protected against small-pox as after small-pox itself; that one effectual vaccination was sufficient, and that re-vaccinations were entirely useless.

To those who object to this theory, we have only to say that it prevents the dangers of communicating diseases of a constitutional character, and must be more protective than the vitiated virus commonly used. A large number of physicians in France, Italy, Germany, and in our own country, have been using the bovine virus of late, and all attest its great superiority over the humanized virus.

We have in our possession many more important facts bearing on this subject, and, if necessary, will present them to the public at a future time.

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