**Remarks on cattle plague vaccination / Translated from the French of Dr. C. Pigeon ... With an appendix on the inoculation of goats with the virus of pleuro-pneumonia [by William Young].**

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Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library

### Publication/Creation

London : Printed by Vacher & Sons, 1882.

### Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/b349n7gd

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PIGEON, C.
Remarks on cattle plague vaccination.
London,1882.

# REMARKS

ON

# CATTLE PLAGUE VACCINATION:

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

DR. C. PIGEON,

OF FOURCHAMBAULT.

WITH AN APPENDIX

## ON THE INOCULATION OF GOATS WITH THE VIRUS OF PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

"Science is in the main most useful, but is sometimes proud, wild, and erratic, and has lately proposed a desperate device for the prevention of infection's perils. She proposes to prevent one peril by setting up another. She would inoculate new diseases into our old stock, in the anticipation that the new will put out the old. I pray you, be not lead away by this conceit. This manufacture of spic-and-span new diseases in our human, bovine, equine, ovine, canine, and perhaps feline species is too much to endure the thought of, especially when we know that purity of life is all-sufficient to remove what exists, without invoking what is not."

DR. B. W. RICHARDSON, F.R.S.

"The propagation of disease, on the pretext of thereby arresting disease, is bad in logic, wicked in morals, and futile in practice."—*New York Medical Tribune*, 1881.

London:

PRINTED BY VACHER & SONS,

29, PARLIAMENT STREET, AND 62, MILLBANK STREET, S.W.

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# CATTLE PLAGUE VACCINATION.

To the Editor of *The Patriote.*

Sir,

One of the members of the Commission at Nevers for Experiments on Cattle Plague Vaccination—M. Guérin, veterinary surgeon—has noted, in your issue of the 23rd inst., an error made by me respecting these experiments. His remark is just, and I thank him for it.

It is quite true that I have, by mistake, attributed to sheep the same morbid phenomena which in these experiments were produced amongst horses and cattle by means of the inoculations with M. Pasteur's vaccine; but it is also true that this error does not affect in the slightest degree the correctness of the deduction which I drew from these phenomena, as well as from the death of one of the sheep, viz., that far from being without danger, as M. Pasteur asserts, his vaccine is, on the contrary, capable in the highest degree, of giving rise to divers morbid conditions, and even to death itself. Here is, however, exactly what passed respecting this point of the experiments at Nevers.

Out of two subjects from horses, six from cattle and eleven from sheep which were vaccinated, both the two horses and five of the cattle had œdematous swellings; the sixth had high fever, and one of the sheep died.

I must add, lest anyone should be tempted to ascribe these results of the vaccinations at Nevers to chance, that in twenty-five sheep lately submitted to similar vaccination in Germany, fever has been recognised, and three out of that number died; that three horses also succumbed in the neighbourhood of Laon, and the same fate was shared by four cows near Meaux. Thus then, as a result of the inoculation by M. Pasteur's vaccine there are various morbid conditions in almost all the animals submitted to the operation, and a death-rate of *nine* or even of twelve per cent. amongst the sheep.

Would not such treatment (we put the question to agriculturists), if applied to all animals, as M. Pasteur invites us to do, be infinitely more disastrous than cattle plague, which is doubtless a serious disorder, but accidental, rare, temporary and purely local.

Would it not even be (having regard to its universal and annually renewed use amongst new stock) more disastrous by its own effects than all the epidemics put together?

But at any rate, is vaccine matter endowed with the property of preserving from cattle plague those animals which escape from its disastrous effects?

Nothing, absolutely nothing in the pretended proofs which the inventor gives, proves this; they do not prove at least that it preserves from cattle plague, *as it is produced naturally*, and it is this kind of cattle plague only from which preservation is important to agriculturists.

We will not return to the demonstration of this total lack of proofs, which we have already made before the Society of Agriculture of the Nièvre, in your journal, in the *Courieur de la Nièvre* and elsewhere. We will confine ourselves to-day to defying M. Pasteur himself to bring forward a single one.

Moreover, in La Nièvre, even amongst those who at first were the most enthusiastic, there is now no one who doubts the lack of proofs on this capital point of his system of preservation, which consequently is nothing more at the present time than a purely gratuitous hypothesis.

Thus M. Guérin makes distinctly a confession of this want of proof in conceding to me that the pretended preservation from cattle plague by M. Pasteur's vaccine has yet to be demonstrated "*in practice.*" He confesses it again, when he adds: "the thing being a novelty, proofs can only be shown by time."

Thus also the Society of Agriculture of La Nièvre has acknowledged the same thing by recognising the necessity of experiments proposed by me, with the object of elucidating this point left unsolved by M. Pasteur's experiments.

Therefore, in the actual state of the case, to urge agriculturists to have recourse to vaccination for their animals, would be to urge them to make most of them ill, to kill a certain number, and to impose upon themselves pecuniary expenses to the profit of the inventor of the system without any certainty of compensation to themselves.

It is true that we may say that, on the other hand, the profit of the inventor would be rapidly counted by millions on millions, since it is by millions on millions that, throughout the world are produced and exist, every year, horses, oxen, sheep, fowls, &c.

May we not say of this pretended preservation "*Se non è vero, è ben trovato*"?

I remain, &c.,

Dr. PIGEON.

Fourchambault, 30*th July*, 1882.

(Extracted from *The Patriote* of August 3rd, 1882.)

P.S.—You will remember that some time ago, a law rendering vaccination obligatory in Switzerland was voted by the Federal Council, and that this law was suspended by a petition from 80,000 citizens.

In virtue of the Swiss Constitution, the people were called on to vote on this law. I have just received a telegram from the learned Professor Vogt, at Berne, announcing the result of this vote:—

| For compulsory vaccination, | Against, |
|---|---|
| **62,554.** | **225,730!!!** |

A later telegram of Professor Vogt, published in *Le Journal de Charleroi*, August 2nd, 1882, gives the numbers as follows:—

| For compulsory vaccination. | Against. |
|---|---|
| **67,432.** | **247,629.** |

## APPENDIX.

# INOCULATION FOR PLEURO-PNEUMONIA, AND ITS RESULTS.

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*The following particulars are extracted from a Blue Book Report by* DUNCAN HUTCHEON, M.R.C.V.S., *Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, Cape of Good Hope, dated February 28th,* 1882, *and presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency The Governor.**

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A severe form of pleuro-pneumonia having broken out in March, 1880, amongst the goats in Cape Colony, attended with a great mortality, it was decided, with a view of preventing or ameliorating the fatal character of the disease, to try inoculation. "On May 2nd, twelve goats were inoculated by "injecting twelve minims of *virus* under the skin of the tail. "Five of these began to swell on the sixth day after; and on the "ninth day the swellings had extended up the hind quarters "to such a degree that, although freely lanced, they died on "the fourteenth and fifteenth days after being inoculated."

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* Cape Town, W. A. Richards & Sons, Printers, 1882.

From June 15th to August 11th, 38,000 goats, situated on fifty-five farms, were inoculated, with the following result:—

"About this time a new danger became manifest. It was "found that one effect of inoculation was to cause abortion "in a great number of pregnant ewes, and in many cases "the aborted kids were manifestly diseased. Some such "that were born alive would linger on for a few days, and "then die of the disease."

The disease continuing to spread re-inoculation was resorted to, and, it is asserted, with apparent success.

Still says the report: — "Notwithstanding this partial "success, I began to realize that even with all the im-"provements which experience had taught us to adopt in "inoculating, the operation could not be depended upon to "completely arrest the spread of the disease."

With a view of effectually stamping out the disease, a meeting of the authorities was held on October 6th, followed by others on the 15th and 19th. At the last meeting there was a general agreement that the slaughter of all the diseased animals, in accordance with the 4th section of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1881, would be the best course to adopt and that it would accomplish the end in view. Thus it was virtually admitted that inoculation as a preventive of the disease had failed. Probably very little surprise will be felt at this result after reading the account of his method of preparing the virus for inoculation, as given by the veterinary surgeon.

"The manner in which I prepared the virus, at first, was "by taking the diseased lung, and any fluid that I found in "the chest, mashing up the lung with my hand, then adding a "little water at blood heat, mixing all well together and "finally straining through a piece of muslin or porous cloth."

This delectable emulsion of water, diseased lung, pus, blood and effused lymph, did not agree with some of the patients, and a plan of virus culture had to be adopted to lessen its activity.

Says the Report :—" As different farmers reported to me " that their ewes were aborting from the effects of the inocula- " tion, I agreed with their idea that the virus must be too strong. " I afterwards took the diseased lung, cut it into thin slices, and " expressed the fluid from it through porous cloth ; adding a " little water. Still abortion followed, and I was induced to " reduce the strength of the virus still more ; but subsequent " experience taught me that I had overstepped the mark in an " opposite direction, for in one or two flocks, which I inoculated " (a la Pasteur) with very attenuated virus, the disease was " carried to them afterwards, and in one flock especially, mani- " fested as much virulence as if they had never been inoculated."

The following directions, " which experience has taught " me to recommend for preparing the virus and carrying out " the inoculation " should be handed down to posterity as a specimen of the medical science (falsely so called) of the nineteenth century ; and, as an illustration of the union of Vivisection with Virusation as handmaids of the art of healing.

" Select a goat which appears to be suffering from the " disease in the acute stage, just when it has commenced to " give the peculiar grunt accompanying each expiration ; after " cutting its throat, cut open the chest by running your knife " through the cartilages of the ribs, on each side of the " breastbone, taking care not to allow your knife to run too far " down in front of the chest to open the large blood vessels " passing through there ; when you have thus cut off the

" breastbone, turn the goat over and pour out all the fluid " contained in the chest into a wide basin or bucket, after " which cut out the diseased lung or lungs, cut the diseased " portions into very thin slices, then express the whole of the " fluid through a coarse piece of cloth or sacking, then " re-strain it through finer cloth, and use it as soon after as " possible.

" For a first inoculation, inject about five minims of this " virus under the skin of the tail of each goat, as near the " point of the tail as possible. If the flock are still exposed " to the contagion, in about a month after, re-inoculate, " using about eight minims of the virus."

But even with this super-refined virus re-inoculated at an interval of one month, certain immunity was not guaranteed, for exclaims the professor, p. 45 :—" As I said before, it " cannot be depended upon to stamp the disease out, and I " unhesitatingly state that if the disease should again occur, " or if it should re-appear in any flock where it has formerly " been, immediate slaughter of the flock should be carried " out, as being the only safe and certain mode of eradicating " the disease.

The foregoing narrative demonstrates in an unmistakeable manner the supreme folly of either Legislatures or individuals giving heed to mere hypothesists and charlatans, who pretend to have discovered that the diseases of men and animals may be prevented or combated, not by the removal of their causes and by the culture of the sole antagonistic force to disease—Health, but by a resort to the injection into the blood of the viruses of the diseases themselves.

We are told that Truth is the child of Time, not of Authority. As variolous inoculation, after a trial of 80 years, was

condemned as a failure; as vaccination, after an ordeal of another eighty years, has proved a delusion; we may safely predict that a similar verdict and sentence of condemnation awaits the latest "fallacy of the faculty"—virusation. Of this trinity of medical errors we may say what Dr. Nittinger said of vaccination,—

"Scientiam profanasti,
Terram perdidisti,
Populum occidisti."

WM. YOUNG.

114, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
*August* 12*th*, 1882.