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New Orleans, 1878.

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The Establishment of a Uniform Sytem of Vaccination for all Citizens and Inhabitants of the State of Louisiana, by Legislative Enactment.

BY JOSEPH JONES, M. D.

Professor of Chemistry and Clinical Medicine, Medical Department University of Louisiana; Visiting Physician of Charity Hospital, New Orleans; Member of Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

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At a meeting of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association, held November 3d, 1877, Dr. Joseph Jones offered the following:

Resolved, That in consequence of the existence and destructive effects of Small-pox in the city of New Orleans, during the past ten years and ten months, the attempt should be made to circumscribe and arrest the disease, by the proper sanitary regulations and legislative enactments.

Resolved. That the Representatives of the People are empowered to enact suitable laws, for the arrest and complete eradication of Small-pox; and that it is as much the duty of the Government to protect its citizens from this disease as to exclude the introduction of foreign pestilence by quarantine regulations.

Resolved, That a committee of three physicians, members of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association, be appointed to address a memorial to the Legislature of Louisiana, urging the necessity of compulsory vaccination.

Dr. Joseph Jones supported the preceding resolutions by the following facts and arguments.

Ravages of Small-pox in Louisiana in Former Times.

Previous to the introduction of inoculation and vaccination, small-pox committed ravages among the early settlers of Louisiana. The ravages of small-pox are mentioned by historians thirty-four years after the foundation of the colony by the French, under Iberville. When Bienville returned to Louisiana, in 1733, after an absence of eight years, his companion, Diron d'Artaguette, thus describes the situation of the colony in a despatch of the 23d of April, from Mobile. "I have found, on my arrival at

this place, two contagious diseases; first, the small-pox, which has carried off, and is still killing every day, a considerable number of persons of both sexes and of every age; and next, a general dearth of provisions, from which everybody is suffering, and which has been the result of the destruction of the late crop by a hurricane." * * * "The colony is on the verge of being depopulated."

Navarro, in a despatch of the 19th of December, 1787, says that in this year small-pox infested the whole Province of Louisiana, and those whom fear prevented from being inoculated became the victims of their prejudice. "All those who were attacked by the contagion either died or were dangerously sick. The inoculation was fatal only to a very few, but this was enough to confirm in their systematic opposition those who declaimed against this wise and humane practice. This disease had struck such terror into the Acadian families, that when one of their number was attacked by the disease, they used to abandon him to solitude and to his fate, leaving him to his own resources, but supplying him with all the provisions and other articles they supposed he would need, although breaking off all communication with him, and thereby depriving him of their assistance. Some of them, however, who were established in Feliciana, and who numbered eighty persons of both sexes and of all ages, had the fortitude to have themselves inoculated, and not one of them had cause to repent having taken that determination."

From the author of "*Vue de la Colonie Espagnole du Mississippi en des Provinces de Louisiane et Floride Occidentale, en l'année* 1802," we gather that, notwithstanding the opposition of the Church and Government to the practice of inoculation when first introduced into the Province, the inhabitants, observing its beneficial effects, practiced it extensively; and finally, the practice became obligatory by legislative enactment, and even the bishop and clergy finally withdrew their opposition.

We are not informed as to the precise date of the introduction of vaccination into Louisiana.

The first edition of *Edward Jenner's "Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a disease discovered in some of the Western Counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of the Cow-pox,"* was published in London in 1798; and as far as a careful examination of the earliest historians of Louisiana, and the accounts of earlier voyages up to the

termination of the Spanish rule, extends, the conclusion is reached, that vaccination superseded inoculation at a later date than 1802.

Small-pox of Comparatively Rare Occurrence from 1803 to 1861.

From the time of the transfer of Louisiana to the United States up to the period of the Civil War, 1861–1865, New Orleans, as well as the entire State of Lousiana, was exempt from wide-spread and destructive epidemics of small-pox.

It is true, that in 1847 the deaths from small-pox in New Orleans numbered 133; in 1857, 103; and in 1858, 108; but the total deaths from small-pox in these three years preceding the war, in which this disease committed the greatest destruction, did not exceed one-half of the deaths of 1864, which numbered 605; of 1870, 528; of 1873, 503; of 1874, 587; or of 1865, when they numbered 613.

This is a striking and startling fact, when it is conjoined with the fact, that during the past ten years the city of New Orleans has been subjected to an expensive and so-called *"thorough system of disinfection and sanitary inspection."*

It is true that yellow fever, although prevailing, with the exception of 1867, in circumscribed portions of the city, and causing far fewer deaths than small-pox, has engrossed the greater portion of the attention of the Boards of Health; still in the official reports, we read of numberless sanitary inspections, the lavish use of disinfectants, and the liberal supplies of vaccine matter at the disposal of the public.

Necessity for Legislative Action Relating to Vaccination and Small-pox, shown by the Destructive Effects and Gradual Spread of the Disease during the past Ten Years.

We need no other argument to prove the necessity of legislative action on the subject of the spread and limitation of small-pox, than the record of the monthly and annual mortality occasioned in New Orleans by small-pox.

We shall examine the records of small-pox mortality, under three divisions of time:

1st. Embracing the records of the past ten years.

2d. The preceding ten years, embracing the Civil War, 1861–1865.

3d. The mortuary records preceding the Civil War.

The following table presents the monthly deaths by small-pox during a period of ten years, 1867–1876, during which *disinfection* and *sanitary inspection* have been practiced in New Orleans.

Deaths from Small-pox in New Orleans during a period of 10 *(Ten) Years,* 1867–1876 *inclusive.*

YEAR.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1867.....	9	13	5	6	6	5	1	1	1	..	.	.	47
1868.....	..	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
1869.....	3	1	1	2	..	5	..	1	1	5	33	89	141
1870.....	69	56	121	122	78	59	14	4	3	..	1	1	528
1871.....	2	..	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1872.....	..	2	5	5	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	11	29
1873.....	64	83	79	67	71	35	11	2	7	8	27	55	508
1874.....	82	89	99	97	98	66	30	6	6	3	12	7	605
1875.....	32	44	94	62	26	30	27	14	4	4	1	17	342
1876.....	8	25	22	25	11	13	15	6	3	8	24	72	232
Total.....	269	313	426	386	294	214	95	34	25	29	98	252	2448

From the preceding figures, it is evident that during a period of ten years, 1867–1876, inclusive, during which the "*carbolic acid* disinfection" was largely employed, and innumerable "sanitary inspections and reports" were made, 2448 deaths were occasioned by small-pox.

It is also evident from the preceding statistics, that small-pox was independent, in its spread, of all so-called "*measures* of disinfection" and "*gratuitous vaccination*," by the Board of Health and Sanitary inspectors. Thus, of the total of 2448 deaths from small-pox in ten years, only 183 deaths occurred during the *hottest* and *most malarious* months, namely, July, August, September and October.

If the deaths from small-pox had been uniformly distributed throughout each month of the year, then the monthly mortality would have been 204; and the mortality of July, August, September and October, would have reached 816, instead of 183. On

the other hand, more than one-half the entire mortality of the ten years specified, or 1394 deaths by small-pox, occurred during the months of January, February, March and April.

Relations of Small-pox to Temperature and Season.

If the year 1874 be selected as the period in which the largest number of deaths occurred (605), for critical study, we observe the following relation between the number of deaths from small pox and the monthly mean temperature.

	Deaths from Small-pox.	Mean Temperature.		Deaths from Small-pox.	Mean Temperature
January...	82	56.7° F.	July.....	30	82 3° F.
February..	89	59.5	August...	6	85.0
March....	99	67.8	September	6	80.4
April.....	97	66.2	October...	3	70.9
May.....	98	76.9	November.	12	64.1
June.....	66	82.6	December.	17	59.4

The poison of small-pox, therefore, in New Orleans, appears to be intensified by cold, and dissipated and destroyed by heat.

The diminution and disappearance of the disease in certain months was therefore clearly referable, not to *gratuitous vaccination*, *disinfection*, nor any other sanitary measures instituted by the Board of Health.

Small-pox was least prevalent in precisely those months in which malarial fever and yellow fever committed their greatest ravages.

The following table presents the number of cases of small-pox occurring each month, during five years, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876.

	Cases of Small-pox. 1872	Cases of Small-pox 1873	Cases of Small-pox. 1874	Cases of Small-pox. 1875	Cases of Small-pox. 1876	Total.
January	6	154	153	93	39	446
February.....	2	194	196	152	69	615
March.....	7	220	203	240	44	714
April.....	23	184	248	132	63	650
May.....	9	160	230	90	31	520
June.....	3	75	141	83	22	324
July	..	21	65	56	22	164
August.....	..	8	12	39	8	67
September.....	1	15	13	7	8	44
October.....	1	14	8	7	31	61
November.....	10	108	23	19	82	252
December	36	146	45	17	167	406
Total Cases.....	98	1300	1338	935	586	4263
Total Deaths.....	40	508	605	342	232	1727
Total Recoveries.	58	792	733	593	354	2536

The reports for the present year, 1877, up to this moment, October 22d, 1877, are still more striking, and justly excite alarm, as foreshadowing still greater ravages by this disease.

Cases, Deaths and Recoveries, by Small-pox in 1877, *up to October* 22*d*, 1877.

Months.	Cases, Small-pox.	Deaths, Small-pox.	Recoveries Small-pox.	Months.	Cases, Small pox.	Deaths, Small-pox.	Recoveries Small-pox.
January	306	148	158	July	83	56	27
February	372	186	186	August	46	22	24
March	502	236	266	September	13	16	0
April	327	157	170	October	4	10	0
May	236	139	97				
June	190	103	87	Total.	2079	1073	1006

In five years, 1872–1876, inclusive, 4263 cases of small-pox were reported, with 1727 deaths, and 2536 recoveries.

If the 2079 cases, 1073 deaths, and 1006 recoveries from small-pox, from the 1st of January, 1877, to the 22d of October, 1877, be added, we have in less than six years 6342 cases, 2803 deaths, and 3539 recoveries, from small-pox in New Orleans. During the same period. yellow fever caused less than one-sixth of the number of deaths, and yet, the whole force of the sanitary legislation of the State, and of the acts of the Board of Health, as well as the public attention, as reflected through the secular press, have been directed to the subject of *yellow fever.*

Total Number of Cases of Small-pox and Varioloid which occurred in New Orleans, during Ten Years and Ten Months, about 33,449.

Whilst the reports of deaths from small-pox may be accepted as accurate, the number of cases reported was far less than the real number, from the fact that many physicians failed to give full returns, and a large number of cases of varioloid, occurring more especially among the poor whites and negroes, were unattended by physicians, and *escaped without being reported or disinfected.*

That a large number of cases of small-pox, which recovered, were not reported, and consequently never were isolated or disinfected, is evident from the significant fact, that in 1874, *of the* 605 *deaths from small-pox,* 150, *or about one-fourth, were certified to by the Coroner.*

These cases became known to the Board of Health, not through the vigilance of the Sanitary Inspectors, but solely by the operation of the law, which required a certificate of burial.

To what extent these 150 unknown, unattended dead, during their last loathsome sickness, contaminated the *unwarned* and *unsuspecting neighbors*, is unknown; certain it is that, the evil which they had unwillingly and ignorantly inflicted upon their fellow-citizens, was arrested neither by the carbolic acid nor sulphurous fumes, nor gratuitous vaccination, of the Board of Health with its energetic corps of Sanitary Inspectors. Neither are we informed of the disposition of the infected clothing and bedding of these miserable victims to a pestilence, which can and must be arrested by compulsory vaccination.

There are, therefore, no statistics to show the exact number of cases of small-pox and varioloid in the city of New Orleans, during the past ten years The President of the Board of Health, in his official report, estimates that in 1870, when 528 deaths were occasioned by small pox, not less than 5000 cases of small-pox and varioloid occurred; and this would give the proportion of one death from small-pox and varioloid to about 9.5 cases. As according to the official mortuary reports of the Board of Health, 2448 deaths were occasioned by small-pox and varioloid in New Orleans, during the past ten years, 1867 1876, inclusive, the total cases, according to the preceding estimate, would reach about 23,256. And if to this record be added the 1073 deaths, and 10,193 cases of small-pox and varioloid, occurring during the first ten months of 1877, then the total number of cases of small pox and varioloid which have occurred in New Orleans during the past ten years and ten months, amounted to about 33,449. If the population of New Orleans during this period be estimated at 210,000, then according to the preceding calculation, one in every 6.2 inhabitants of the city has been afflicted with small-pox and varioloid.

Thirty-three thousand four hundred and forty-nine cases, and *three thousand five hundred and twenty-one deaths from small-pox and varioloid,* in *ten years and ten months,* in New Orleans, do

not indicate any great value in the measures of sanitary inspection, disinfection and free vaccination, instituted by the Board of Health; but such an appalling record does indicate, in the most forcible manner, the most lamentable neglect of the great and efficient means of protection against this disease, namely, VACCINATION.

The Sanitary Inspectors and the Board of Health, without doubt, accomplished some good results amongst that portion of the population which availed itself of *gratuitous vaccination*, and the law which compels the children attending the public schools to exhibit a certificate of successful vaccination, tended to foster the performance of this wise and beneficial operation; but *the fact that every one of the* 210,000 *inhabitants of New Orleans were not afflicted and decimated by small-pox, was due to the persistent and invaluable labors of the enlightened and faithful practitioners of medicine in this city.*

MEASURES FOR THE ARREST OF SMALL-POX IN NEW ORLEANS.

The only measures which will secure the thorough destruction of small-pox in New Orleans, are:

1st. *The constant supply, to the Sanitary Inspectors and practitioners of medicine, of fresh reliable vaccine matter, in quantities sufficient to meet the wants of the entire population.*

2d. *Compulsory vaccination.*

FACTS ILLUSTRATING THE NECESSITY OF COMPULSORY VACCINATION. SMALL-POX MOST PREVALENT AMONGST THE BLACKS.

The importance of COMPULSORY VACCINATION, enforced by LAW, and systematically performed by conscientious and competent medical men, is shown by the fact, that in proportion to the population small-pox has been, during the ten years and ten months specified, *far more prevalent amongst the* BLACKS *than the* WHITES, as will be seen by the following statistics for 1873, 1874, and 1875.

In 1873, of the 508 deaths from small-pox, 108 were white and 400 were colored.

Tabular Statement of Cases of Small-pox reported to the Board of Health, New Orleans, Louisiana, during the Year 1874.

Month.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.	Sex.			Color.		
			Male.	Female.	Not Stated.	White.	Colored.	Not Stated.
January	154	82	78	62	14	53	81	20
February	196	89	98	85	13	96	81	19
March	203	99	116	79	8	97	68	38
April	248	97	160	81	7	148	72	28
May	230	98	125	95	10	70	131	29
June	141	66	71	66	4	67	57	17
July	65	30	42	22	1	42	23	...
August	12	6	8	4	..	8	2	2
September	13	6	9	3	1	11	...	2
October	8	3	5	3	..	2	5	1
November	23	12	8	15	..	13	8	2
December	45	17	24	21	..	18	22	5
Total	1338	605	744	536	58	625	550	163

Six hundred and five deaths by small-pox are at the rate of 2.88 deaths per annum per 1000 population, and 8.90 per cent. of the total death rate. Of 1338 cases of small-pox, 712 were white and 626 colored, a rate of 4.59 cases to 1000 of white population, and 11.38 cases to 1000 of colored population, estimating the white population at 155,000, and the colored at 55,000. The total number of deaths for 1874 was 6798; the total death rate per annum was 32.27, and the annual death rate, had not small-pox prevailed, would have been 29.49.

Tabular Statement of Cases and Deaths by Small-pox, reported to the Board of Health, New Orleans, 1875.

Months.	Total Cases.	Cases. Sex.			Cases. Color.			Total Deaths.	Deaths. Color.		
		Male.	Female	Not Stated.	Whites	Colored	Not Stated.		Whites	Blacks.	Not Stated.
January	93	44	49	0	36	53	4	38	14	24	0
February	153	91	61	0	84	66	2	55	22	32	1
March	240	140	100	0	94	132	14	98	34	61	3
April	132	68	61	3	60	70	2	44	17	24	3
May	90	47	41	2	38	43	9	30	10	20	0
June	83	42	41	0	32	46	5	31	14	15	2
July	56	24	32	0	31	25	0	21	12	9	0
August	39	17	10	2	28	8	3	16	12	4	0
September	7	4	3	0	3	3	1	4	2	1	1
October	7	4	4	0	3	4	0	4	2	2	0
November	19	10	8	1	0	19	0	6	0	6	0
December	17	6	9	2	6	8	3	5	2	3	0
Total	935	496	429	10	415	477	43	342	131	201	10

In 1875, 935 cases of small-pox with 342 deaths were reported; and of cases where color was stated, there were 62 more blacks than whites, and of deaths 70 more. When it is considered that persons claimed as colored constitute but one-fourth of the total population of the city, it is evident that the cases of this disease among colored persons were more than three times the number among the whites. This is due, not so much to an especial susceptibility of those of African descent to small-pox, but chiefly to lack of vaccination.

Progressive Increase of Small-pox in New Orleans during the past Fifteen Years.

A careful examination of the mortuary records of New Orleans reveals the important fact, that during a long series of years preceding the recent American Civil War, New Orleans was comparatively exempt from small-pox. The disease, from 1841 to 1861, attracted so little attention that the pages of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, the great exponent of Southern medicine during that period, are almost absolutely barren of matter relating to small-pox.

Deaths caused by Small-pox in New Orleans during a period of 15 *Years, embracing* 1845, 1847, 1849, 1850, 1853, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867.

Year.	Deaths from Small-pox.	Year.	Deaths from Small-pox.	Year.	Deaths from Small-pox.
1845.....	1	1856.....	2	1863.....	2
1847.....	27	1857.....	103	1864.....	605
1849.....	133	1858.....	108	1865.....	613
1850.....	37	1859.....	43	1866.....	188
1853.....	17	1860.....	22	1867.....	47
Total.....	215		298		1455

From the preceding table, it is evident that small-pox has progressively increased in the city of New Orleans, since the occupation of the city by the United States forces, under General Butler, during the Civil War of 1861–1865. Thus in 5 years,

embracing 1845, 1847, 1849, 1850, and 1853, small-pox occasioned 215 deaths; in the 5 years embracing 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, and 1860, the deaths from this disease numbered 298; and in the 5 years. embracing two of war, 1863 and 1864, and one of war and *so-called peace*, 1865, and two of so-called peace, 1866 and 1867, the deaths from small-pox numbered 1455. That is, during the first ten years embraced in the table, 513 deaths were occasioned by small-pox; whilst in the last 5 years, embracing the period of Federal occupation, and the harvest of the immediate results of the Civil War, 1455 deaths from small-pox, occurred out of a total of 1968 deaths in fifteen years.

As we have seen, during the period of "*disinfection and active enlightened sanitary inspection*," embracing ten years and ten months, 3521 deaths were occasioned by small-pox, thus indicating a progressive increase of the disease.

A minute examination of the mortuary records of New Orleans, during the first fifteen years embraced in the table, establishes the greater prevalence of small-pox during the coldest months, and its almost complete disappearance during the hottest months, namely, of July, August, September, and October. Thus in 1849, out of a total of 133 deaths from small-pox, the deaths for January were 17; February, 16; March, 20; April, 25; May, 16; June, 16; July, 3; August, 4; September, 6; October, 1; November, 2; December, 7: 1858, January, 16; February, 19; March, 18; April, 15; May, 11; June, 6; July, 7; August, 3; September, 2; October, 3; November, 4; December, 8—total, 108: 1859, January, 11; February, 7; March, 10; April, 11; May, 3; June, 1; July, 0; August, 0; September. 0; October, 0; November, 0; December, 1—total, 44.

It is evident, therefore, that the supposed effects of vaccination and disinfection, so elaborately detailed in the *post bellum* reports of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana, were in no manner connected with the uniform diminution of small-pox during the hot months. A critical analysis also reveals the fact, that the deaths from small-pox amongst the colored population during the *period of slavery* were not greater, but on the contrary, less comparatively than during the days of *armed emancipation, reconstruction and freedom.* Thus in 1849, out of a total of 133 deaths from small-pox, 78 were white and 55 colored.

THE INCREASE OF SMALL-POX IN NEW ORLEANS, DURING THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, DUE CHIEFLY TO THE CROWDING OF THE NEGRO POPULATION, AND THE NEGLECT OF VACCINATION BY THIS CLASS OF THE POPULATION.

Upon a careful consultation of the mortuary records of New Orleans, the conclusion is inevitable, that the great increase of small-pox during the past 14 years and 10 months, 1864–1877, in which 4974 deaths have been occasioned by this disease, is largely due to the emancipation of the negroes, and the consequent neglect of vaccination, poverty, idleness, and crowding in the city. The same increase has been witnessed, since the war, in other Southern towns into which the negroes crowded, as in Augusta and Savannah, Georgia, Nashville, Tennessee, Mobile, Alabama, and Charleston, South Carolina.

The fact that the colored population of New Orleans has rapidly increased, whilst the white population has remained almost stationary, from 1860 up to the present time, may be demonstrated by the following statistics.

Population of New Orleans, 1845–1876.

Year.	Whites.	Blacks and Colored.	Total.
1845.....	.....	.....	108,000
1850.....	89,459	26,916	116,375
1860.....	144,596	27,074	168,670
1870.....	140,923	50,456	191,418
1876.....	155,000	55,000	210,000

The figures for 1876 are merely approximate, whilst those for 1850, 1860 and 1870, are drawn from the United States Census.

During a period of sixteen years, 1845–1860 inclusive, the population of New Orleans increased from 108,000 to 168,670, being an actual gain of 60,670. During the succeeding sixteen years, 1861–1876 inclusive, the population increased from 168,670 to about 210,054; total increase during this period, 51,384. The increase of population, according to this approximate estimate, was therefore 9186 less than during the preceding sixteen years (1845–1860). The increase was actually less than that indicated in the figures, as the town of Carrollton was not incorporated with the city until April 1st, 1874.

The estimate of 155,000 white inhabitants for 1876, as given by the Board of Health in its official mortuary reports, is perhaps too high, especially as it will be seen from the records of the United States Census, that while in 1860 the white population numbered 144 596, in 1870 it had decreased to 140,923, showing an actual loss, in ten years, of 3673.

On the other hand, the blacks and colored had increased from 27,074 in 1860 to 50,456 in 1870; increase of blacks and colored during this period, 23,382.

Whilst the negro population of New Orleans had nearly doubled itself in these 10 years, 1860-1870, inclusive, on the contrary, during the ten years preceding 1850-1860, the white population had increased from 89,459 to 144,596, showing a gain of 55,137; and the negro population from 26,916 to 27,074, showing a gain in this element of only 158.

A complete revolution, therefore, was made in the population of New Orleans by the results of the Civil War.

The loss of 3673 white citizens during the period embracing the Civil War, 1860-1870, did not represent the actual destruction occasioned amongst the whites by the casualties of the war, for it will be admitted on all hands, that a large immigration set in to New Orleans from all parts of the Southern States after the close of the war, and this city probably contained a larger white population in 1866 and 1867 than at any previous or subsequent time. The decrease in the white population of New Orleans after the Civil War appears to have been caused chiefly by the *so-called reconstruction measures* of the Republican Party of the Northern States, *vigorously executed by the President of the United States.*

By the absorption of all public offices by men *alien* to the people of Louisiana, by the reckless waste of the illegal and ruinous taxes wrung from the *conquered* province, by the disfranchisement of her best citizens, and by the destruction of her resources and credit, the tide of white immigration was not only turned from Louisiana, but thousands of her best white citizens left New Orleans.

The white population of New Orleans, therefore, during the sixteen years, 1861-1876, inclusive, so far from receiving any actual and substantial additions by foreign and domestic immigration, actually lost a considerable portion of its permanent

population, who sought their fortunes elsewhere in Texas and other States.

On the other hand the colored race, allured by the prospects of political elevation, abundance, ease and amusement, flocked from the country to the city. The colored population was thus augmented, not by an actual increase of births but by immigration; *and such increase was not justified by increased facilities of commerce and labor.*

Without doubt much suffering has been occasioned by this influx of people, devoid to a great extent of capital, and in many cases unable to secure comfortable and healthy habitations.

It is impossible to over-estimate the difficulties of arresting and eradicating small-pox in a population thus situated.

As it is the duty of those charged by the State to direct the sanitary affairs of the people to devise measures salutary to all citizens, the preceding facts have been fully and candidly stated.

General Conclusions from the preceding facts, and Measures Proposed for the Consideration of the Legislature of Louisiana, for the Arrest and Total Eradication of Small-pox.

1st. During a period of ten years and ten months, 1867–1877, in which the attempt has been made in New Orleans to arrest small-pox by disinfection, isolation, and the removal of patients to a *small-pox hospital*, the disease has prevailed to a greater extent than ever before, in the history of this city, during the American domination,

2d. Whilst the greater prevalence of small-pox, during the period specified, is not chargeable to the inefficiency and neglect of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana, at the same time it is evident that the system of disinfection with carbolic acid and sulphurous acid, practiced in New Orleans by the sanitary authorities, has been utterly valueless and useless for the arrest and eradication of this disease.

It would be as easy to chain the mouth of the Mississippi with ropes of sand, as to arrest this loathsome and fearfully contagious disease simply by burning sulphur and scattering carbolic acid.

3d. The only known means of arresting small-pox is *universal vaccination and re-vaccination*, at stated intervals.

Inoculation, properly performed, is comparatively light in its effects, and occasions but slight mortality—not more than one death occurring, under favorable circumstances, in every five or six hundred persons inoculated. The process of inoculation is equally protective against the natural small-pox, but the grand objection against this procedure is, that each inoculated individual becomes a centre for the perpetuation and dissemination of small-pox.

No such objection applies to the milder and absolutely non-contagious disease produced by the cow-pox.

From authentic documents and accurate calculations, it has been ascertained that one in fourteen of all that were born died of small-pox, even after inoculation had been introduced; and of persons taken ill of small-pox in the natural way, one in five or six died; and in addition to this frightful mortality, alike observable in all the different regions of the globe, many of those who recovered were permanently disfigured, or deprived of eyesight, or left with shattered constitutions, the prey to pulmonary consumption, chronic ophthalmia, and scrofula. According to the researches of Black, Lussmileh, and Frank, eight or nine per cent. of the human race were carried off by small-pox; and Duvillard endeavored to show that of 100 persons, only four reached the age of thirty years without having it; that one in seven or eight who were affected died; and that of those who were attacked in infancy, only two-thirds escaped.

Before the introduction of vaccination, small-pox was infinitely more destructive to human life than the plague itself; it has swept away whole tribes of savages and half-civilized people; and its innumerable victims have been abandoned by their nearest relatives and friends, as persons doomed by Divine wrath to irrecoverable death. It was calculated that 210,000 fell victims to it annually in Europe; and Bernouville believed that not less than fifteen millions of human beings were destroyed by the small-pox every twenty-five years, that is six hundred thousand annually; and this loathsome disease was not only universal in its ravages, but was so subtle in its influence and insidious in its attack, that all efforts to stay its violence, or to prevent its approach, were utterly futile. Even inoculation, whilst it was far less severe and fatal than the natural small-pox, and thus benefitted the individual, tended nevertheless to increase the spread of the disease, and its extensive adoption was attended with a

most marked increase of mortality of the disease in the human race.

By the unaided efforts of a man, emulous not of distinction, but desirous of advancing truth and promoting the happiness and well-being of his fellow-creatures, and distinguished as much for his humility, long-suffering and perseverance, as for his unsurpassed powers of practical observation, the world has been furnished with the means of completely eradicating this terrible scourge, by substituting the same disease in a mild modified form, non-communicable by effluvia, and capable of affording complete immunity from the natural small-pox.

4th. Each unprotected inhabitant who neglects or wilfully refuses vaccination is a source of constant danger to himself, to his family, to his neighbors, and to the whole community; and the State has the power and the right to institute at the hands of competent medical men, COMPULSORY VACCINATION, for the full and equal protection of all her citizens.

The true theory of a democratic form of government is the equal protection of life, property and happiness, of all alike, by wise and just laws, and the absolute subjection of all, both the *governors* and the governed, to LAW.

Compulsory vaccination, in that it protects all alike from pestilence, suffering and death, is thus a democratic measure, designed to bestow the greatest freedom and the greatest happiness upon all alike, regardless of place, or position or race.

The requirement of certificates of successful vaccination before admission of children into public schools, accomplishes some good, but the measure is too weak and partial in its operation to reach the root of the difficulty.

Small-pox can be successfully combatted and eradicated only by the thorough vaccination of every man, woman and child. *

It would be difficult to estimate in dollars and cents the actual pecuniary loss to a large city like New Orleans, or to the great and rich commonwealth of Louisiana, of the 33,449 cases of small-pox, with 3521 deaths; and as a numerous, vigorous and enlightened population, is of the highest importance to her welfare and advancement, it should be the sacred duty of legislators to enact such laws as will best protect the health and lives of the people; and it is the duty of physicians, who are by virtue of their profession the friends and advisers of the people, to inform them and their rulers of the essential measures necessary to secure these ends.

6th. The system of Sanitary Inspection carried out by the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana, during the past ten years and ten months, is inefficient, and utterly inadequate to the proper discovery, isolation, disinfection and arrest of small-pox.

7th. The system of gratuitous vaccination by the Board of Health and its Sanitary Inspectors, has failed materially to influence the spread of the disease, for small-pox has been less prevalent in those years in which no such offer was made to the public.

8th. Depots of reliable and fresh vaccine matter should be maintained at central points in the city of New Orleans, and over the entire State of Louisiana.

9th. One responsible physician, distinguished for intelligence and energy, should be appointed in each Congressional District, and commissioned by the State as a superintendent of vaccination.

Said superintendents should be appointed by and act under the direction and control of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana.

It should be the duty of each superintendent of vaccination to make an accurate census of his district, and record the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated inhabitants, and also those who have suffered from small-pox in the natural way. It should be the duty of the superintendent of vaccination to vaccinate all those who have not been vaccinated or who have not suffered with the small-pox. An annual census of each district, together with the total number of cases of small-pox and varioloid, and the total number of successful vaccinations, should be furnished the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana. In case of the refusal of any individual, or individuals, to subject themselves to vaccination at the hands of the superintendent of vaccination, or by some regular practitioner of medicine, such individual or individuals to be dealt with in accordance with such laws as the Legislature of Louisiana may enact for the regulation of vaccination. The superintendents of vaccination shall be constituted the custodians of vaccine matter, and shall respond to the calls of the practitioners of medicine for such matter, and they shall in no manner interfere with the performance of vaccination by the medical profession in their respective districts.