

**Annual oration delivered by appointment before the Medical Society of the State of Delaware : on the thirteenth of May, 1828 / by J.F. Vaughan.**

### **Contributors**

Vaughan, J. F.  
Delaware State Medical Society.  
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

### **Publication/Creation**

Wilmington, Del. : Printed at the Patriot Office, 1828.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nbh47xyx>

### **License and attribution**

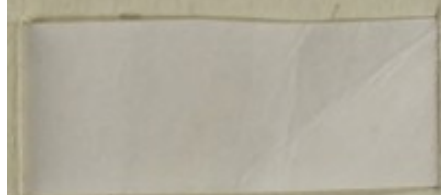
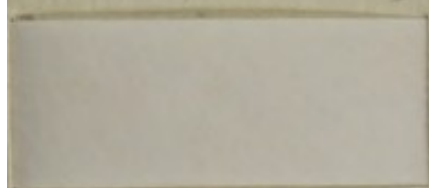
This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the National Library of Medicine (U.S.), through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the National Library of Medicine (U.S.) where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>







4.  
**ANNUAL ORATION.**

DELIVERED BY APPOINTMENT,

BEFORE THE

**Medical Society**

OF THE

**STATE OF DELAWARE,**

ON THE

**THIRTEENTH OF MAY, 1828:**

---

**By J. F. Vaughan, M. D.**

President of the "Medical Board of Examiners;" Port Physician of the  
Borough of Wilmington; Physician to the Poor House of  
Newcastle County; Honorary Member of the  
Philadelphia Medical Society, etc.

---

*Published by order of the Society.*

---

**WILMINGTON, DEL.**

*Printed at the Patriot Office, 104 Shipley St.*

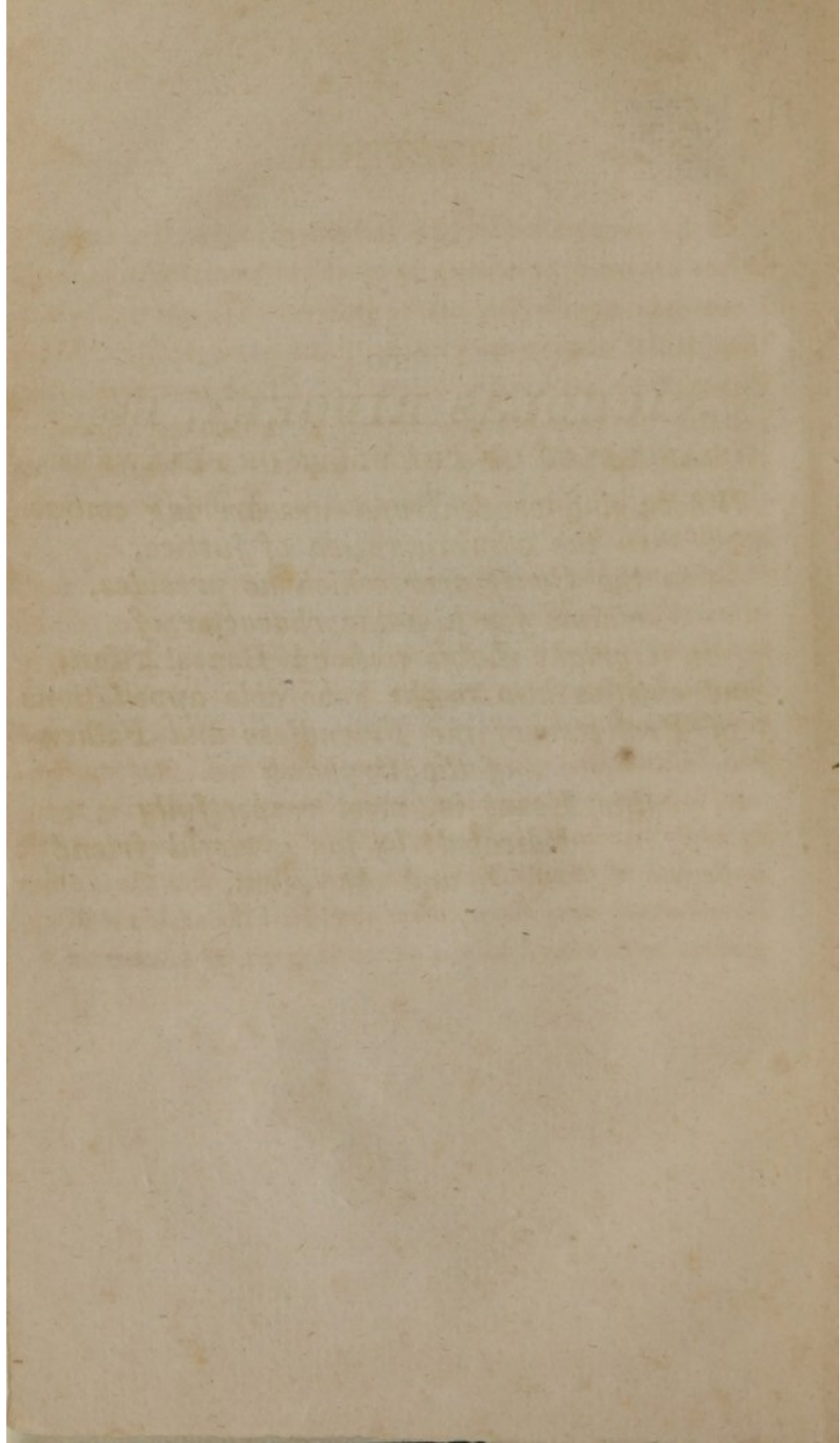
**1828.**



W  
V367a  
1828  
c.1



TO  
**NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq.**  
**CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE ;**  
*Whose independent and unwavering course  
in the administration of justice,  
in the Court over which he presides,  
claims for him the character of  
an Upright Judge and an Honest Man,  
and entitles him to the honorable appellations  
of Protector of the Friendless and Father  
of the Orphan ;  
this Essay is, most respectfully  
dedicated, by his grateful friend  
and obt. servt.  
THE AUTHOR.*





## PREFACE.

In the preparation of the following pages, the author's object has been, to convey as much information, in as small a compass, as possible, on the interesting subjects of which they treat, aiming more at truth than originality. With this view he has availed himself of all the best authorities relating to them, and presented as condensed a view, of the nature of the Varioloid Disease and the degree of reliance to be placed on Vaccination, as their importance would admit of.

In consequence of the hurried manner in which the address was, unavoidably, put together, one point, of no small importance, was accidentally omitted. I allude to Re-vaccination; this practice is now recommended, on the very highest authority, not from any belief in the idle tale that Vaccination gradually deteriorates, and that the system, in a few years, so completely loses its protecting agency as to become again susceptible to the influence of the contagion of Small Pox; but from a fear that the former Vaccination *may* have been spurious, or at least so imperfect as to afford only a partial degree of protection.





# ORATION, &c.

---

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the duties imposed upon me, by the flattering and honorable appointment with which I was invested, at the last stated meeting of our society, I now appear before you for the purpose of delivering the Annual Oration. In the performance of this task, it is not my intention to occupy your time with a detailed history of medicine, a minute retrospective view of what has been achieved by its votaries, or a lecture on the duties and qualifications of Physicians.

Each of these subjects, though highly important in its nature, has been so frequently selected as the proper theme for an address of this kind, and therefore so often and ably handled by men of superior talents and extensive scientific attainments, that nothing new or particularly deserving of attention remains to be said ; and consequently every facility has been afforded for the acquisition of any desirable information concerning them.—Under these circumstances I have taken the liberty of departing from the usual and almost established course, and have selected a subject of a more practical nature ; but of such vast importance and deep interest to us all, as to plead my excuse ; and one on which I hope, I shall have it in my power to present to your view some observations and at least a few facts which will not be deemed trite or unaccep-



table by all of my auditors ; and shall therefore proceed, without further apology, to lay before you all the information I have been enabled to collect in relation to the “Varioloid Disease” and the power and influence of Vaccination in protecting the system against the contagion of that terrible pestilence, the Small Pox.

In the investigation of a subject which, like the present, from its great importance to all the human family, has so long attracted the attention and excited the deep interest, not only of every member of the medical profession, but of almost the whole world, much originality cannot be expected. Here is no place for indulging in idle and fantastic speculation, for giving loose the reins of imagination or for exercising the powers of invention. I can therefore best serve you and do justice to my subject, by acting in the capacity of an *eclectic* ; selecting useful information from every available source, and, as the result of my own examination and research, presenting you with a matter of fact statement ; in doing which I respectfully request your attention and at the same time solicit your kind indulgence.

The universal alarm naturally excited by the appearance and prevalence of a species of Small Pox, or of an eruptive fever, so closely resembling it in all the important characteristics, against which the established shields of Inoculation and Vaccination, heretofore so confidently relied upon, have failed, in many instances, to afford the expected and promised protection, gives to these subjects a peculiar degree of importance at the present time, and has, it must be confessed, led to a much lower estimate of the protective power of Vaccination, than its early friends and advo-



cates could ever have anticipated. Expecting too much from Vaccination, reposing implicit and unlimited faith in its powers, many of its friends, claimed for it a degree of *infallibility*, possessed by no other sublunary agent; and when a few cases of failure were substantiated, some have seemed ready, under the powerful influence of a kind of 'panic terror,' to rush at once to the opposite extreme, to deny its efficacy altogether, and to renounce and denounce the long and fondly cherished blessing.

But notwithstanding all this, in spite of all the doubts which may have been excited, and the numerous broad assertions or equally injurious insinuations which have been circulated to the prejudice of Vaccination; it still continues to bid proud defiance to all the shafts of ignorance, and the name of Jenner, its illustrious discoverer and promulgator, which now shines conspicuous, as a star of the first magnitude, in a brilliant constellation, will ever continue to hold its commanding altitude and retain its enviable lustre; for if Vaccination "is all a farce," then is the whole practice of medicine "a system of fraud and imposture, and all those engaged in it, should immediately strike the flag of their profession, and disdain longer to impose upon the credulity of a generous and confiding public!"

Let us now endeavor to ascertain the nature of this epidemic, which has occasioned so much alarm, and given rise to such a variety of speculations. Many single and sporadic cases of Small Pox after Variolation and Vaccination, had been reported as having occasionally occurred for a great many years past; and particularly in several of the smaller towns of Scotland; which,



though attracting some curiosity and perhaps causing a little temporary uneasiness, commanded no very general or serious attention, nor excited much alarm until so late as 1818. During the winter of which year, the "Varioloid Disease" (so called from its resemblance to Small Pox) broke out in the city of Edinburg, and prevailed, for the first time, to any considerable extent. Contemporaneously, or nearly so, it made its appearance in various parts of England, in France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, etc. Towards the latter part of the succeeding year, having crossed the ocean, the disease broke out in Lancaster, Penn.; not long after it appeared in Baltimore; in the fall of 1823, it presented itself in Philadelphia; and still more recently, it has invaded Delaware, and first arrested the personal notice of the members of the faculty in our State.

By Dr. Thomson of Edinburg, the first and one of the best of its historians, this lawless and wide spreading epidemic is described as attacking the four following classes of persons:

1. Those who had previously had Small Pox 'in the natural way.'
2. Those who had been Inoculated.
3. Those who had been Vaccinated, and
4. Such as had never used any protective measure; and under all these different circumstances, though varying in grade or violence, it still exhibited some common characteristics.

In the protected system, the eruption, he states, usually commenced in a vesicular form, or a papular, speedily becoming vesicular, and only becoming pustular during its progress, in a few instances. The pustules appeared sometimes with



and sometimes without the *central* depression. The eruption was irregular in size and form, as well as in the place of its first occurrence, and seemed generally to occupy only the surface of the skin. In nearly all of the cases which came under his observation, the eruption came out in *successive* crops, some of which appeared on the body after that on the face was at its height. It appeared in general, even in severe cases, to have arrived at its height on the face by the sixth day of the eruption ; and in the milder cases, not unfrequently by the fourth or fifth day.—The fluid contained in the vesicles and pustules appeared in a great many instances, to be lymph, even to a late period of the disease, and generally dried into horny scabs, covering tubercular elevations of the skin, which, in several instances, were succeeded by pits, or depressions of that texture. The eruption rarely had any of the smell peculiar to Small Pox ; was very seldom followed by the symptoms of secondary fever ; and rarely occasioned even a little temporary blindness. The eruption was however, occasionally very extensive, and in all its symptoms the disease strongly resembled genuine Small Pox ; and in other cases there were only a few vesicles of the character of Chicken Pox. He remarked that in infants the varicellous and in adults, the varioloid appearance usually predominated. In that form of the disease presented by persons who had previously had Small Pox, the eruptive fever in many cases was severe, and in others so mild as hardly to be perceptible ; a similar variety appeared in the eruption ; in the majority of cases it closely resembled Chicken Pox in its several forms, while in other cases it had the



usual appearance of distinct and even confluent Small Pox. He speaks of seventy-one cases of this form of the disease, of which three died; being a proportion of 1 in 23. In two of the fatal cases it may be worthy of note, that the attack came on in a few weeks after they had passed through Small Pox!

In persons who had been previously Vaccinated, he describes the disease as not differing materially in either its nature or appearance from the preceding variety; though it is evident that it was still milder and less dangerous. And he gives the following conclusive evidence of the superiority of Vaccination, viz: that of *three hundred and ten*, who had this form of the disease, but *one* died! and even that death can scarcely be fairly attributed to this cause.

In the fourth class, or that including those persons who, unfortunately, enjoyed no protection, the disease, instead of exhibiting the mild aspect abovementioned, was, on the contrary, a most violent and malignant form of Confluent Small Pox. Of *two hundred and five* persons, seen by Dr. Thomson, laboring under this form of the epidemic, *fifty* died! being a proportion of one death in every *four cases!* which is a degree of mortality almost unexampled; and, independent of all other evidence, con-



clusively shows the violent and uncontrollable nature of the complaint.

By Dr. Thomson and his followers, who are confined to a small minority of the physicians of England and Scotland, it is maintained that the Varioloid Disease is nothing more than a highly aggravated or malignant form of Varicella. But by a large majority of the medical men of Great Britain, and on the Continent generally a different opinion is entertained; and throughout the whole of our own country, I know of no exception to it; it may therefore be very fairly considered as the established and the correct doctrine, that the disease called Varioloid, is nothing more nor less than a modified Small Pox.—In the unprotected system the disease is confessedly a genuine and malignant Small Pox; while in, even the partially, protected system, the violence of the disease is restrained, its malignant nature is controlled, and it settles down into a modified form of the same terrible disease.

The truth of the doctrine which maintains the identity of the two diseases, Small Pox and Varioloid, would seem to be incontrovertibly sustained by the fact, which few, if any, will now pretend to deny, that the mildest and the most malignant forms of the epidemic will, and do, reciprocally



produce each other, either by inoculation or in the natural way.—We may therefore consider the following as settled points;

1. That the Varioloid Disease is genuine Small Pox, moderated in grade and somewhat altered in its appearance, by the protecting influence of Variolation or Vaccination. And that its proper name is Modified Small Pox.

2. That it only prevails, or that the protected system is invaded only at times when the existing Small Pox, is unusually violent in its nature.

I may here take a brief and merely passing notice of the idle and ridiculous suggestion of a few skeptics in the protective agency of Vaccination, “that we must again have recourse to inoculation, and had better at once admit the fact, and apply to it as the only preventive.” The only reply this gratuitous and utterly unfounded notion merits, is the statement of a few of the many objections which might be urged against inoculation, independent of the immense superiority of vaccination. Thus, of those inoculated for the Small Pox, according to several distinguished English writers, one in a hundred dies! It also occasionally causes loss of sight, developes scrofula and other loathsome diseases, etc. And against the modified Small Pox it is a much more inefficient protection than vaccination.

What a dreadful evil Small Pox was, even whilst inoculation was in use, may be understood by the fact, that in the Kingdom of Great Britain



alone, *fifty thousand* individuals *annually* fell victims to it!

Let us now proceed to answer the important question concerning which the public feel so much anxiety, and in which every individual is so deeply interested :

May we rely upon Vaccination as a protection against Small Pox?

By many physicians it has been, and yet is, boldly asserted and confidently maintained, that no person who has been properly vaccinated, and has passed regularly through the genuine vaccine disease, can possibly, under any circumstances, take Small Pox *in any form*. This is, unquestionably, going too far, because the only effect of such a broad assertion is to injure vaccination, and if possible bring it into disrepute; for, as already said, this would be claiming for it a degree of *infallibility*, which it cannot, and ought not to be expected to possess.

By a larger number, and of equally high standing in their profession, it is admitted that persons who have been vaccinated with genuine virus, and have been fairly under its protection, may take the modified Small Pox. But they, at the same time, declare the disease under such circumstances, to be of a mild form, and attended with much less danger than when occurring among the variolated.

After a careful and attentive examination of all the facts produced, and a strict investigation of all the testimony advanced by the contending parties, the truth, as is usual in all such cases, will be found between the two extremes. And we are furnished with conclusive evidence to the following purport; viz: that the course pursu-



ed by both parties is calculated only to injure the cause of vaccination;—thus on the one side, infallibility has been indiscreetly and unwarrantably claimed for it; and as might naturally be expected, a solitary instance of its failure to protect the system, is considered sufficient to warrant a disbelief in its power, and to justify a denial of its possessing any protective agency whatever. Now, it is well known, and universally admitted, that there is no general rule without exceptions; and it is equally true that such exceptions do not by any means destroy or even diminish the validity of the general rule.

There are several diseases which, once suffered, destroy the susceptibility of the system to a second attack, and thus afford the individual an exemption from a repetition of the same disease, throughout his whole future life. This is undeniably true as respects measles, hooping cough, chicken pox, scarlet fever, etc.; as a general rule; and yet there are certainly very few, if any, physicians, who have been for any length of time in practice, who have not seen patients suffering from a second attack of one or more of those diseases. It is a fact, established beyond all doubt, that, from the earliest period of its history, each of the abovementioned diseases has been known, in very many instances, to have attacked the same person a second and even a third time! These exceptions, however, do not invalidate the truth of the general rule, that *an attack of either of them is suffered but once by the same individual*; nor, although generally known, have they diminished the public confidence in, or prevented universal reliance upon the certainty of this general rule.



That a similar degree of liability to occasional failure, without a diminution of faith in its protective influence, should be denied to vaccination, is unquestionably very unfair, illiberal and unjust;—but is owing no doubt, as has been previously suggested, to the extravagance of those of its advocates by whom its powers have been declared to be entirely unlimited.

By the other class of physicians, alluded to, an equally great error has been committed. They have certainly yielded a too ready and unqualified assent to the reports of the frequent failure, and in such an immense number of instances, of genuine vaccination. The only admission which it is justifiable to make, because it is the only one sustained by facts, and based on the unalterable foundation of truth, is, that when the prevailing Small Pox is of an unusually virulent kind, a very small number of the genuinely vaccinated can possibly be affected by it. And that these few cases only form partial exceptions to a very general and firmly established rule.

Such is the only admission which I consider it allowable for any medical man to make; because if he goes farther he is at once arrayed in opposition to all probability and analogy; to a host of facts and a multitude of witnesses; by all which the following positions are fully established.

1. That there is every reason to believe, and little or no cause to doubt, that a vast majority of the cases of modified Small Pox, reported and met with, as occurring after vaccination, are owing to the systems of such persons being only partially protected, by a spurious or imperfect



vaccination ; and that they have, in fact, never had the genuine vaccine disease at all.

2. That of any given number of persons known to have been genuinely vaccinated, but a very small proportion indeed will suffer in the slightest degree, from the most free and unrestrained exposure to Small Pox.

3. That there is no just cause for any diminution of public confidence in vaccination. The proofs of its protecting power rest upon a lasting basis ; and its reputation must endure “ firm as a rock, amidst the waste of ages.”

In order to demonstrate the degree of general protection afforded by vaccination, I shall now present a few of the host of facts which might be adduced.

By Mr. Cross, of Norwich, England, at which place the epidemic of a violent form, or in other words a malignant small pox, prevailed extensively, it is stated, that of 91 persons, vaccinated either previous to or during the continuance of the epidemic, who were constantly in the same room and often in the same beds with the small pox patients, only two took the disease. Besides this free exposure to the contagion of small pox, several hundred of those vaccinated (from the earliest period of its use to within a few weeks,) were subjected to the additional test of inoculation, during the epidemic, and so far as he could learn, in no instance was regular small pox produced. His testimony in favor of vaccination is very strong and ought, of itself, to remove the doubts of the greatest sceptic as to the inappreciable value of that protective agent. Thus, only two



deaths occurred in a population of 10,000 vaccinated persons, exposed too, for more than a year, to the most concentrated contagion; while, on the contrary, among little more than 3000 persons, by whom this protection had been neglected, there happened 536 deaths!

At Millau, in France, a town containing 8000 inhabitants, of the unprotected, 200 were destroyed by this epidemic; while among the properly vaccinated there was no instance of the disease in its genuine form. There were however many cases of the modified small pox, very mild in its nature, of short duration and in no instance fatal.

In the same kingdom for a period of 13 years previously, 2,500,000 vaccinated people had remained completely exempt from small pox!

Doct. Luders, of Altona, states that of 234,959 persons vaccinated in Holstein, from 1801 to 1812, only *two* individuals had been attacked by small pox, so late as 1824.

And in Denmark, during a similar period, he states that but one case of modified small pox had occurred among 447,605 vaccinated persons!! In this kingdom, where the general diffusion of vaccination has been considered as an object deserving of the attention of Government, and where it has been rendered highly penal to variolate, small pox has become extinct!

In Holland, where the small pox recently prevailed epidemically and very extensively, we are presented with the same results as in England and France. Thus, in the city of Rotterdam, near 400 of the unprotected died



of it; while "thousands of the vaccinated escaped entirely;" and even among those few "who had a modified variolous eruption, no death occurred!"

I shall next present some American evidence, in confirmation of the preceding statements, and then quit this part of my subject, conceiving that I shall have said enough to convince the mind of every one, of the importance and utility of vaccination, except, perhaps, there may be a few such confirmed unbelievers as would reject even the testimony of the senses!

By Dr. M'Caulley, of Baltimore, it is stated, (in his letter to the Mayor of Washington) that "upon two successive occasions, when small pox made its appearance in that city, the wide spreading of the destructive contagion was prevented by the energy and good management of the Board of Health. In each instance when the disease was introduced extensively, a physician, for each ward, was appointed, to visit every house and immediately vaccinate all the unprotected. By this means the contagion was promptly and effectually arrested; and to this alone "is to be attributed the almost entire exemption of a population of 70,000 souls, from this scourge, during the past year (1827.)"

In the city of Philadelphia, small pox had *not a single victim* from 1812 to 1822, inclusive! And by Drs. Mitchell and Bell, we are presented with the following result of the cases which came under their care in 1823 and '24, the first appearance of the epidemic



there. No. of cases, 248, including natural and modified forms of it; of which 92 proved fatal; 85 of these were unprotected, 6 variolated and but one vaccinated.

By a committee appointed, by the Medical Society of that city, to investigate this subject and particularly to ascertain what foundation, if any, there was for the idle rumors which were in circulation to the prejudice of vaccination, an able, interesting and very satisfactory report has recently been published, which ought hereafter, to set all doubt and cavilling forever at rest. The present population of the city is about 140,000, of which number it is estimated that 80,000 depend upon vaccination to shield them from small pox.

This committee requested, and received, a written statement of the opinions and experience, in relation to vaccination, of near sixty physicians of their city, including many of the most eminent and distinguished practitioners there; by each and all of whom the strongest and most decided testimony is given in favor of vaccination.—The report concludes in the following language:

Thus we may, without the least want of candor, come to the conclusion that only one death from small pox after vaccination, has occurred in Philadelphia during the year 1827, among 80,000 vaccinated persons, and during the prevalence of a most malignant and mortal small pox, while *several individuals* have lost their lives from small pox *after they had already passed once through that disease!* It appears then clearly that *vaccination ought*



*to lose nothing* of the public confidence ; and as a protection from the fatal effects of genuine small pox, it may safely be asserted, that it is, in every sense, to be preferred to inoculation.

Let the public be well informed with regard to the real degree of efficiency of the vaccine virus—let them no longer be told, that it will positively shield them from the assault of small pox in every form and in every instance. They will surely confide in it if we point them to the physicians who rely on it for the safety of their wives and children, and who, defended by the ‘ægis of Jenner,’ walk unharmed themselves amidst the arrows of pestilence and death !”

I have before expressed my firm conviction, that a very large majority of the cases of modified small pox were the consequence of an *imperfect vaccination*. But by Dr. Luders, already quoted, it is maintained that this disease “is entirely owing to that cause ;” which, as it may proceed from such numerous sources, and as that operation is too frequently, it must be admitted, very carelessly performed, happen much oftener than is generally imagined. Believing, as already stated, that this is going too far and claiming too much, yet I am equally well satisfied that, to a very considerable extent, this opinion is correct ; and, therefore, I consider, that any person who undertakes to vaccinate, without paying due attention to the various sources of failure, and without such a frequent inspection of the vesicle, as to assure himself that his patient has pas-



sed regularly through the genuine disease, is regardless of his own reputation ; does great and wanton injustice to the cause of vaccination ; and shamefully neglects his duty to his patient and his obligations to society.

Among the many causes of failure enumerated, by Dr. Luders, the following are the most important ; vaccination he says may be rendered imperfect by

1. The opening of the vesicle, either accidentally by friction, or intentionally to extract lymph.

2. The employment of vaccine matter of inferior virtue ; only capable of exciting a modified disease.

3. A modification of the vesicle (even when caused by genuine virus) by constitutional causes, as cachexia, depending on scrofula, syphilis and the like, or convalescence from a violent and exhausting disease.

4. Or the same effect, may be produced by co-existing constitutional cutaneous diseases.

5. Or by external applications made to the part, as camphor, mercurial and saturnire ointments, etc.

6. Or by the co-operation of internal remedies, as sulphur, mercury, nitre, a course of alteratives, of laxatives, etc.

Among the causes producing impure vaccine matter, are

1. Its having been taken from a vesicle, on the cows teat, not really vaccine.

2. Or from a vesicle modified by some of the foregoing causes.

3. Or by the persons having previously had small pox or been inoculated.



4. Byits having been kept too long after being taken from the vesicle.

5. Its having been spoiled, though even recent, by heat, moisture, acid fumes, strong vapours, etc. etc.

Though all of the above mentioned causes *may not* be capable of producing the effect stated, yet, *if it is even possible* that such MAY be the case, they are well deserving of attention.

Before concluding, I think it proper, to ask your indulgence for a few minutes longer, to make some brief observations concerning the selection of vaccine virus ; and to point out the distinction between genuine and spurious vaccination.

In the selection of vaccine matter, a subject unquestionably of very great importance, but to which confessedly, too little attention is generally paid, it should ever be borne in mind that there is '*a choice in the scab.*' Such as are *hard and compact, of a dark mahogany color, and have a regular and well defined margin*, should be uniformly selected. On the contrary, we should as uniformly reject the *pale greyish scab, scaly or lamellated* in its structure, and having *ragged edges* ; as it is at all times suspicious and very liable to fail, or when it does infect, to produce a spurious disease.

In using the scab all the loose parts of it, lying on the inner surface and attached to its circumference, should be scraped off, and a small portion of the *real solid scab only*, should be pulverized, moistened with water, laid upon the skin and carefully worked in with the point of a lancet.



By "the National Vaccine Establishment" of London, the following are considered as the Evidences of a true or genuine vaccination.

A small red speck, somewhat elevated, appears on the punctured part, about the close of the third day, which on pressure imparts to the finger the sensation of its enclosing a hard substance. This pimple gradually enlarges, and about the fifth or sixth day, a small vesicle is formed, having a round margin, a flat surface, with a slight indentation in the centre, is of a pink color, which changes to a deeper red, with a bluish cast, and is darkest in the middle. It continues increasing until the eighth or ninth day, when there is thrown around the base of the pustule, a rose colored circumscribed appearance, or efflorescence like a ring, which in one or two days more becomes a florid areola of an inch or more in diameter. The disease is now at its height, the efflorescence throughout its whole extent tumefied, and more or less hard, in which state it continues for several days, and then gradually subsides and fades away, the pustule being converted into a hard scab of a dark mahogany color.

Signs of unsuccessful or spurious vaccination.

There is a *premature itching*, inflammation and suppuration—the progress of the vesicle is too rapid—its texture is soft—the edge not well defined—the centre elevated—the matter purulent—and it is pointed like a common abscess or festering sore. Instead of the regular areola, a premature efflorescence of a dusky purple color takes place, and the crust is of a light brown or amber color. The irregular vesicle is also more liable to be broken than the regular, both from



its form and texture, as well as from its being usually so irritable as to provoke scratching.—When broken this vesicle is apt to ulcerate.

A vesicle, apparently regular at first, sometimes does not increase to the proper size, but dies away prematurely; and usually leaves no cicatrix, or one which is hardly perceptible.

I have been thus particular, and indeed minute because I do most conscientiously believe, with the Philadelphia committee, that the precious boon of Jenner has lost, by our familiarity with it, too much of that almost sacred respect with which its inestimable worth ought to inspire the minds of physicians, who are (or rather *ought to be*) its sole depositaries. A long impunity and uninterrupted enjoyment has rendered us too forgetful of and inattentive to the precepts of this momentous subject. Have not hundreds of persons been vaccinated by those who were *totally unqualified* to judge of the genuine or faulty character of the disease! Is there not a common disregard to the state of the skin, and the other requisite provisions to its successful application? Do not three or four careless inspections of the vesicle commonly suffice for all attention and cautiousness; and as to the records of cases, what are they more than a loose charge in the day book, or a treacherous reminiscence of a long forgotten and unimportant event?

The evils unavoidably resulting from this unfortunate and very reprehensible state of things, are thus to a considerable extent, chargeable on our profession; every member of which should henceforth consider it his bounden and peculiar duty to pay strict attention to this subject, and



lend all his aid to the utter and total extinction of that foul disease, Small Pox.

From legislators and other rulers are we never to receive any assistance in this good cause, the cause of humanity? As has been already stated, in Denmark, in consequence of the energy and zeal of the rulers of that kingdom in diffusing vaccination, Small Pox has become extinct! and can any one doubt that by an extension of the same plan by which it has been thus eradicated in one country, it might as readily be driven from the face of the globe; and by a general and efficient co-operation in this great and truly benevolent enterprise, this terrible scourge of mankind might, in the space of a few years, be so completely annihilated as to leave no other trace behind except only its name and the story of its former ravages!



