Vaccination.

Contributors

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VACCINATION.

Children are vaccinated for the purpose of protecting them against small-pox. The law requires this protection to be given them in the first months of life.

Hundreds of children now-a-days die of small-pox for want of vaccination, just as thousands used to die before vaccination was discovered. Vaccinated children, even if they should take the disease, hardly ever die of it. They recover without the blindness and scarring so common after small-pox in unvaccinated children.

Parliament has provided the means for vaccination being everywhere properly done. When it is so done, "there need be no apprehension that vaccination will injure health or communicate any disease." These are the words of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1871, and they are as true to-day as when they were written.

Vaccination ought to be repeated for children of twelve years old, so that they may get fresh protection against small-pox, and under some circumstances this "re-vaccination" should be done at an even earlier age. The protection given by a recent re-vaccination is such that "re-vaccinated" persons can even live in small-pox hospitals without catching the disease.

Vaccinations and re-vaccinations are done by Public Vaccinators without cost to parents.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, February, 1888.

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