

Expositions on the inoculation of the small pox, and of the cow pock / [John Coakley Lettsom].

Contributors

Lettsom, John Coakley, 1744-1815.

Publication/Creation

London : printed by H. Fry for J. Mawman, 1805.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n9yev3x6>

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EXPOSITIONS
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EXPOSITIONS

ON THE

INOCULATION

OF THE

SMALL POX,

AND OF THE

COW POCK.

HE ASKED LIFE OF THEE, AND THOU GAVEST IT HIM.

Psalm xxi. 4.

LONDON:

Printed by H. FRY, 49, Basinghall Street,

FOR J. MAWMAN, POULTRY.

1805.

PRICE SIX-PENCE.

91896

NEW YORK

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LONDON

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1898

1898

TO PARENTS.

§ 007

The experience of more than an hundred years has proved, that about FIFTY THOUSAND OF YOUR CHILDREN are annually destroyed in these kingdoms by the Small-pox, and that the inoculation of it has not lessened, but really increased the number of infantile deaths ; it is hence with peculiar propriety, that I address you, to whom children owe their existence, and on whom devolves the preservation of their health, and the formation of their morals. Thus you are destined to the important station of superintending the welfare of mind and body ; to promote that of the first, you select the best instructors, and watch the progress of education. The right discharge however, of every rational function is greatly influenced by the health of the constitution ; and as the shock of any severe disease in youth, likewise influences the functions of the body in future life, you cannot too sedulously guard against the infliction of severe disorders, and the most severe and fatal of which is the Small-pox, which excites more constitutional maladies than any other pestilence. It is now providentially in your power to prevent all the bad consequences which result from it, by the medium of the Cow-pock ; as a parent, whose relatives have been thereby preserved from the least constitutional inconvenience, and feeling an anxious desire to save the children of every other parent, I am encouraged to set before you, " life and death," as dependent on the most loathsome and fatal pestilence that ever afflicted the human race.

TO PARENTS.

The experience of more than an hundred years has proved, that about FIFTY THOUSAND OF YOUR CHILDREN are annually destroyed in these kingdoms by the small-pox, and that the inoculation of it has not lessened, but really increased the number of mortal deaths: it is hence with peculiar propriety, that I address you, to whom children owe their existence, and on whom devolves the preservation of their health, and the formation of their morals. Thus you are destined to the important station of superintending the welfare of mind and body: to promote that of the first, you select the best instructors, and watch the progress of education. The right discharge however, of every rational function is greatly influenced by the health of the constitution; and as the shock of any severe disease in youth likewise influences the functions of the body in future life, you cannot too sedulously guard against the infliction of severe disorders, and the most severe and fatal of which is the small-pox, which excites more constitutional maladies than any other pestilence. It is now providentially in your power to prevent all the bad consequences which result from it, by the medium of the Cow-pock; as a parent, whose children have been thereby preserved from the least constitutional inconvenience, and feeling an anxious desire to save the children of every other parent, I am encouraged to set before you "life and death," as dependent on the most poisonous and fatal diseases that ever afflicted the human race.

EXPOSITIONS

ON THE

INOCULATION

OF THE

S M A L L P O X,

AND OF THE

COW POCK.

AFTER the experience of a great portion of the world in favour of the inoculation of the Cow Pock, and the most ample proofs of the danger of inoculating the Small Pox, it could hardly have been imagined, that the people of this country, where the providential discovery was made, should have been the only exception in Europe to its very general adoption; for in many parts of the continent, the Small Pox is nearly, if not altogether extirpated; and had the inoculation of the Cow-pock been universally adopted in this country, the Small-pox would also have been exterminated here, and known only by name.

Unfortunately for the health and existence of thousands of children, individuals, even of the medical profession, have attempted to excite the fears of parents, and encouraged the inoculation of the Small-pox, by which the disease has become so extended and dreadfully fatal, as to have killed **FORTY SEVEN CHILDREN** in London, within the last seven days only.

Viewing this fatality with painful concern, because it might have been avoided; and being placed with the rest of my professional brethren, as guardians of the health and safety of the people; and perceiving that numbers are daily destroyed by the Small-pox, I deem it my duty to advise the parents of children to "stay the pestilence," and not to suffer themselves to be deceived by partial and dangerous insinuations.

Although the Cow is the healthiest and cleanest of all animals, the enemies of the Cow-pock have called this providential preservative, a *bestial disease*, whilst they eat the meat of the Cow to

preserve their constitutions, and drink its milk which proceeds from the same source that affords the Cow-pock!

They report, that it produces eruptions, whilst every body knows that children are almost universally liable to eruptions in their infancy; but the Cow-pock, which excites little if any disease, does not disorder the constitution, and consequently cannot be the cause of these eruptions. Many of these supposed cases I have visited, and found them in general as slight as the tooth-rash, or other trivial eruptions, to which infants are liable in their usual course of health, whether they have had the Cow-pock or not. I have indeed known many instances of eruptions in children having disappeared after they had been inoculated with the Cow-pock, and have afterwards enjoyed better health; but as the Cow-pock is always safe, even in the earliest stage of childhood, parents have hence been induced to have infants inoculated, in a few days or weeks after their birth; at a period, when very few of them would escape without some eruptive affection, in the ordinary course of health; of such common occurrence to most infants, the enemies of the Cow-pock have availed themselves, and circulated reports of dangerous eruptions from the inoculation, which every mother ought to have known is familiar to children; and not in the most distant manner dependent upon or connected with the Cow-pock. I will risk the assertion, that no one new eruption or affection ever resulted from the Cow-pock. There never was a period in history, that children were not liable to various kinds of eruptions. Dr. Daniel Turner, who was a member of the College of Physicians in London, who wrote about the year 1726, declares, that "among the diseases of infants and young children, scarce any attends more frequently than pustulary or scabby eruptions, in several parts of their bodies, as the breech; but more especially their foreheads, brows, and other parts of the face, which we find oftentimes over-run with dry and crusty scabs." 3d. edit. 1726, ch. iv. p. 69. This has perhaps been the case since the world began, and may continue as long as children exist.

I have taken a great deal of pains to enquire after, and visit many of these cases, without finding one to justify these reports. Some I found were really the common itch, which had not appeared till several months had elapsed after inoculation; some had the chicken-pox; some the scarlet fever; some were merely the bites of bugs or fleas; but I never was yet able to find one instance of eruption, that could be fairly deduced from the Cow-pock; and from the notorious falsity of those I have examined, I am now of opinion that no one serious or troublesome eruption was ever occasioned by the Cow-pock, and these enquiries have all tended to confirm me in the perfect safety and healthiness of the process of inoculating the Cow-pock at every period of life.

Within the last three days only, I have taken the trouble of enquiring into the histories of five of these supposed dreadful instances of the most violent eruptions and humors said to have been

brought on by the Cow-pock." The two first which I visited, were children, who had recently had the Cow-pock, and afterwards from some transitions of the weather, which at that time had been very variable, some febrile indisposition had occurred, with a slight efflorescence of the skin, frequent under such circumstances. I saw the children about the third day of indisposition, at which time the efflorescence was scarcely perceptible, and after prescribing a medicine suitable to the fever, I retired, thinking it unnecessary from the slightness of the complaint to repeat my visit. The third case I visited, was in consequence of a current report, that a child had taken the Small-pox, after having been inoculated with the Cow-pock; from a view of the eruption, I did not think it to be the Small-pox; however, the father thus accosted me, "I pay so little attention to the reports about my child, that had I a thousand children, they should all have the Cow-pock." He was a person of good information, unbiassed by unfounded stories. The fourth subject was one which had excited very general alarm, and given rise to severe censures against the Cow-pock. As an individual it occasioned me more concern, as I had long entertained an high esteem for the family, most branches of which had been under my medical care. The child I allude to was described to me as having been nearly reduced to death by the virulence of the sores of the newly fabricated species called the green cow itch of Dr. Moseley, which had extended from head to foot. I had often casually heard accounts of this miserable object, as it had been emphatically called, but I paid little attention to them, imagining them, like other similar tales, totally unfounded; at length however, I had the pathetic history from the parents themselves, in a party of company; my attention now was seriously arrested, and I requested permission to visit the object, and at least to endeavour to console the distressed parents. The next day I attended, and had the following narrative from the mother, on whose knee I found her only child; "that it had been inoculated about twelve months before, and continued perfectly well during the ten following months, at which period, it was sent to the care of a person in the country, for the benefit of the air, whose child had likewise been inoculated with the Cow-pock, and like this infant, had been since covered with a similar foul eruption and running sores."

After this narrative, I cannot express the degree of pleasure I felt, in declaring that this child had caught a most violent itch from the other in the country. I immediately ordered the use of sulphurated ointment to the eruption, and in four days time to wash it off, as the child would then be well; and so it has proved.

The fifth case was truly afflicting. The child of a large family residing near London, was inoculated with the Cow-pock; at the same time the brothers and sisters who had not had the Small-pox underwent the same process in the most favorable manner about three years ago; they all continued in perfect health for two years and a half. when the youngest child, the subject of the present

narrative, caught the chicken pox, without any material inconvenience; soon afterwards it was attacked with the measles in the most severe degree, which has so reduced the constitution as to excite strongly marked symptoms of scrophula and consumption, with sores on the body usual in strumous maladies.

Thus I found that in every instance the reports of mischief from the Cow-pock were most completely unfounded; but had they come under the cognizance of Dr. Moseley, now refuted by Merryman and others, or of a person calling himself Dr. Squirrel, they might by the magic powers of imagination and prejudice, have worked up narratives too horrid for the nerves of tender mothers and gossiping nurses; but like the story of M. Montague's children, the baseless vision will be dissolved, and the thick mists which exhibit frightful spectres will be dissipated by truth and plain sense.

With respect to the last child noticed, when I blamed the parents for circulating stories which had not the least shadow of truth to support them, they replied that they were deceived by old women and nurses, who told them that they knew twenty other similar cases. I strongly insisted upon having their references, as I informed the parents that I would enquire after them; but out of the twenty, one only could be recollected, which fortunately I had myself attended, and like the present case had not the least affinity with the Cow-pock†.

Some parents have, I fear, been so led away by the vulgar prejudices as to ascribe the eruptions which may have appeared on their children who have had the Cow-pock, to this source; whilst in reality they have originated from themselves. This is not a vague insinuation, for I have met with many such examples.

Much has been urged against the Cow-pock, as not affording a permanent security against the Small-pox: that numerous mistakes have been committed I am well persuaded; I know of many instances of the Chicken-pox having been inoculated for the Cow-pock; many persons unacquainted with the true Cow-pock, have incautiously practised inoculation; or by neglecting to follow Dr. Jenner's golden rule, never to inoculate from the Cow-pock, after the circular redness or efflorescence is formed; many children have been inoculated, and whether the Cow-pock has taken effect or not, has not been ascertained, in consequence of these children not having been seen again by the inoculator: like the matter of the Small-pox, it does not always infect the subject; these, however, afford no proofs against the utility of the Cow-pock, but very strong ones of ignorance and neglect.

The idle tale that the Cow-pock does not ever afterwards secure the person inoculated from the Small-pox, but preserves it only for

† That I may not be charged with imaginary relations of cases, the particular references are left with the Printer.

a few years, has been held up to frighten the timid, but it is so contrary to all analogy and experience, that it scarcely requires a serious refutation.

It has been proved by many incontestible facts, that persons who have had the Cow-pock, at the distance of from twenty to sixty years past, have hitherto continued in security from taking the Small-pox, although to my knowledge some of them have been inoculated with the Small-pox by way of experiment; but admitting the known falsity, that the Cow-pock affords a security against the Small-pox for three or four years only, yet even under this supposition, were every person inoculated with the Cow-pock, the infection of the Small-pox would be annihilated, under which circumstances the inoculated subjects and their posterity would be secured from the Small-pox, because there would be no infection; without the existence of which the Small-pox could not be propagated.

Although I never saw an instance of the Small-pox following the inoculation of the Cow-pock, casual cases from some cause or other may have happened, as well as after the inoculation of the Small-pox. In one week I lately attended two children in different families, who had been inoculated with the Small-pox, by respectable practitioners, and took the disease afterwards, and suffered severely from it. I am now attending a lady who was inoculated by the late Baron Dimsdale, and afterwards had the natural Small-pox. A relation of mine inoculated by one of the Sutton's, since caught the Small-pox and died; but such instances are too frequent to leave any doubts of these facts, and as I have observed, may have likewise occurred in a few instances after the Cow-pock.

Whilst this essay was going to press, I visited in a family of the name of Johnson, in Sweet-apple-yard, Bishopsgate Street, a child about eleven years of age, whom I found labouring under the confluent Small-pox, after having been inoculated with the Small-pox, by a respectable surgeon nine years ago. Two other children of the family were inoculated with the Cow-pock, who escaped infection, as well as another child of the family, who had been inoculated with the Cow-pock five years previously to the present time; by these instances, it might be inferred, that the inoculation of the Cow-pock affords as certain a security, if not a more certain one, against the Small-pox, than the inoculation of the Small-pox itself.

I have known children inoculated with the Cow-pock, instantly at their birth, in consequence of this event happening in a boarding-house, loaded with the infection of the Small-pox, but these remained perfectly secure from this disease. I have even known two children suck one woman, one of the infants having taken the Small-pox, when the other was inoculated with the Cow-pock, and both continued to suck, till the Small-pox child died, whilst the other child under the Cow-pock, received no other infection.

Numerous instances have I known of children who have had the

Cow-pock, afterwards having slept with their brothers or sisters in the worst kind of the Small-pox, but I never yet knew any one of these vaccinated children to have taken the Small-pox, in consequence of these trials, during an attentive practice ever since the Cow-pock was introduced. In visiting any child in the Small-pox, I uniformly advise the parents to have their other children vaccinated; and so hideous does a child usually appear, when labouring under the Small-pox, that in no instance has my advice been in vain; and although the child with the Small-pox may have died, I never knew any of these vaccinated children afterwards catch the Small-pox. Two exceptions to my advice did occur, but I only met the parents casually; who opposed the Cow-pock, from the usual fabrications they had heard, respecting humours, and similar absurdities. In one of these families there were three children who took the Small-pox soon afterwards; two of these died, and the other is so disordered with the evil, which is no uncommon occurrence after the Small-pox, that death would have been preferable. This poor diseased child was brought to me for advice, and then I heard of the dreadful catastrophe in their family. The other parents of two children resided where I attended a family, whose three children had happily been inoculated with the Cow-pock, and I thought that the success here, would have induced the parents of the other children to have partaken of the same blessing, but they violently replied, that their children should not have a *bestial disease*. I have since enquired after this family; unfortunate parents! they have lost both of these children by the Small-pox; so that by the imposing nonsense of not having a *bestial disease* from the very animal that nourished them and their children, they are rendered childless, like many other deluded parents! Does any person believe that the fluid of the cow is less pure than the humors of intemperate man?

Many well meaning people have opposed the Cow-pock, as they say, that they might not tempt Providence; if this means any thing, it would be tempting Providence less, to embrace this blessing which is afforded to save life, than by refusing it. Christ himself used means to cure diseases, and was particularly attentive to little children. It was said, that he came to save life, and consistently with this character, numerous instances are recorded of the tender interest he took in curing diseases, but none of his refusing his aid. It is in the first place our duty to use our reason and exertions, to preserve ourselves by proper clothing, houses, food and drink, and trust to Providence for the blessing; but no religion instructs us to be negligent and to trust to Providence without we use those endeavours to take care of ourselves and our children, which reason enables us to do. In another sense it might be used as an excuse for every species of idleness, negligence and vice; any vagrant under this pretext might refuse to work, and plead for his conduct, that he would "trust to Providence," and hope to be fed without any exertion of body or mind;

in short, were this disposition to become general, the farmer might neglect to sow his corn; famine and anarchy would ensue, and man would be reduced to a state below the beast that perisheth.

Some persons argue, that they will not bring a disease on themselves, this however, is no argument that they should not use their reason to prevent disorders. The Cow-pock is no real disease, but it prevents the worst that ever afflicted mankind. Happy indeed would it be, for these very people who will not save their children's lives by the means afforded them, could they truly say that they have not brought diseases upon themselves, by intemperance, frequenting bad houses, and by other immoralities, which really bring on half their disorders. If they thus injure themselves, it affords a more forcible argument for exerting their endeavours to preserve those under their protection from danger; and no danger is greater to children than the Small-pox; and there is no other secure means of preserving them than the Cow-pock; under what excuse then can parents hesitate to save their children from an almost certain calamity?

The inoculation of the Small-pox affords no more security against catching the Small-pox again, than the Cow-pock does; but inoculation of the Small-pox is always a dangerous experiment, as it sometimes proves fatal; and where it does not kill, it diffuses its own poison so extensively as to have occasioned more deaths than ever happened before the inoculation of it was practised. The Parliament of Great-Britain were convinced of this, after a careful examination of many eminent physicians and surgeons, and by the certain proof of the bills of mortality published every week in London; and before rewarding Dr. Jenner, the discoverer of the Cow-pock, they made the following declaration, after examining *Dr. Jenner, Dr. Ash, Dr. Bradley, Mr. Home, Sir Walter Farquhar, Mr. Cline, Dr. Sims, Dr. Woodville, Dr. Blane, Mr. Knight, Dr. Moseley, Robert Pope, Lord Berkeley, Mr. Ring, Rev. G. C. Jenner, Mr. Birch, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Marshall, Mr. Griffiths, Dr. Dale, Dr. Dennison, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Lister, Mr. Cuff, Dr. Skey, Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Frampton, Dr. Baillie, Dr. Croft, Dr. Nelson, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Long, Dr. Pearson, Lord Rous, Dr. Thornton, Mr. Addington, Dr. Rowley, Mr. Simpson, Dr. Lind, His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, Dr. Heberden, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Keate, Mr. Robert Keate, &c.* "that by the statements of

"the mortality occasioned by the Small-pox in 42 years BEFORE
 "inoculation was practised in England, and of the 42 years AFTER
 "inoculation was practised, the result appears to be an encrease of
 "deaths amounting to 17 in every 1000; the general average
 "giving 72 in every 1000 during the FIRST FORTY-TWO YEARS,
 "and EIGHTY-NINE IN THE FORTY-TWO YEARS, ending with
 "1772; so as to make the whole cause of deaths in the latter
 "period, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-TWO!"

Admitting the facts and inferences urged by Parliament, which cannot be refuted, that the inoculation of the Small-pox tends to

increase the deaths ; what then must foreigners think of a Parliament that rewarded Dr. Jenner for the discovery of the Cow-pock because it prevented the infection of the Small-pox, and its consequent destruction ; and yet, that this very Parliament should tolerate a practice, and the inoculation of that disease, for the extinction of which they paid the reward. Had the Parliament, after exposing the baneful practice of inoculation of the Small-pox, acted with consistency, as the guardian of the public prosperity, this practice, so fatal to the community, ought to have been immediately interdicted ; had this resolution sanctioned their primary one, five thousand youths, who have been since killed by the Small-pox, might now have been living members of the community to augment the population of that country which neglected their welfare, and the happiness of those parents, who, misled by false insinuations, surrendered their duty to prejudice. It may be asked if our liberty should be thus restrained ? Certainly the liberty of doing mischief, as murder, the setting of an house on fire, of introducing the plague or yellow fever. If persons attempt to drown themselves, the members of the Humane Society would undoubtedly oppose the liberty of suicide. Without salutary restraints, all the social bands of society would be dissolved, and anarchy ensue.

After the discovery of the Cow-pock was made known, many people had the good sense to have their children inoculated with it ; in consequence of which the deaths in London scarcely exceeded 600 during the whole of last year, a number nearly 2000 less than usually occurred before the Cow-pock was introduced ; but unhappily for the rising generation, some medical persons, and others, endeavoured early in the present year, to alarm the public, by circulating stories and representations which imposed upon many parents, and induced them to suffer their children to be inoculated with the Small-pox ; by this practice the contagious poison has been spread throughout London to such an extent, as that within the last seven days a very considerable number of children have been killed by it, as has been related. About the same period upwards of 250 patients, I am informed, were inoculated in the Small-pox hospital with the same infectious poison, and afterwards dismissed from the hospital, thereby affording a more certain source of mortality, than if 250 mad animals had been at once let loose upon unguarded victims,

It is truly surprising that in a scientific nation, there should now be supported, at a great expence, such a repository of pestilence as the Small-pox hospital. What term of reproach should we apply to the Americans, if in imitation of the mother country, they should maintain a repository for keeping up and extending the yellow fever ? What epithet should we apply to a nation that employed the same means to perpetuate and extend the plague ? Suppose that they should actually follow our example, we should still outdo the Americans and the Egyptians in mischief,

because the Small-pox kills more than both the yellow fever and the plague.

I have long and carefully noticed the bills of mortality, in order to ascertain, among other objects, the number of deaths produced by the Small-pox every week; which I observed to have gradually diminished as the Cow-pock extended, till the number fell to one, and afterwards admitted of none. About this time it was that the circumstances I have mentioned of circulating false reports against the Cow-pock, that the inoculation of the Small-pox became prevalent, which aided by the patients from the Small-pox hospital, rapidly extended this disease, and shortly swelled the number of deaths to no less than 47 victims in the space of one week! that is from July the 9th to the 13th, 1805. Since which there have been killed in London alone, in the following four weeks, **ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOUR PERSONS BY THE SMALL-POX! viz.**

July 23,	died of the Small-pox,	28.
30,	_____	24.
Aug. 6,	_____	24.
13,	_____	48.

The numbers of the blinded, maimed, or otherwise disfigured are not included.

About **EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND** have been inoculated with the Cow-pock, not one of whom, that I know of, has died, nor even one been maimed. What a blessing then to our children is the Cow-pock, and yet so ungrateful to Providence are some parents as to slight this inestimable blessing!

Although parents might have been unconscious of the mortality they were thus occasioning, the same could not apply to those who spread the poison by the practice of inoculation; for they could not but be acquainted with its contagious nature, as well as with the decision of parliament. The criminality of intentionally setting an house on fire, is well known, but since party walls have been adopted, the setting of 100 houses on fire would probably prove less fatal to life, than the unguarded inoculation of a single person with the Small-pox; one instance among others is well ascertained, of a single inoculated child having infected 17 other children with the Small-pox, eight of whom died. If one person were intentionally to kill another, the law would condemn the murderer to suffer death; and what apology can be reasonably urged for propagating a poison, the mortal nature of which is universally known; but the extent to which it may spread is incalculable. Every medical professor, therefore, should religiously abstain from the possibility of injuring a fellow creature, and absolutely refuse to gratify the caprice of the thoughtless and ignorant. It has been pleaded by some, that if they did not inoculate, another practitioner would, and at the same time that they might thereby forfeit the future attendance of the family. It has certainly been highly honourable to the faculty, that they have

so generally promoted the inoculation of the Cow-pock, in order to exterminate a disease, which has afforded them more pecuniary profit than any other. The plea, however, that others would inoculate the Small-pox if they did not, might be used as a pretext for committing the most criminal and illegal action, even of murder itself. It must be admitted that, in many instances, the practitioner is placed in a painful and delicate situation, when requested to perform an act, against which his conscience ought to revolt; but it may be presumed that any family whose attendance is worth preserving, would not only acquiesce in a rational explanation, but likewise entertain an higher esteem for upright conduct, and a greater confidence in abilities directed by integrity, whatever might, however, be the result: no sinister consideration should be suffered to influence the acknowledged guardians of health to stifle philanthropy; to sanction injustice; or, in the words of the psalmist, "to give over to the pestilence;" and if moral sentiment, and the impulse of conscience are not powerful enough to support rectitude of conduct, the just restraints of law ought to be invariably exercised. If a person purposely introduced the plague or yellow fever into this kingdom, the punishment of such a delinquent could not be too severe and exemplary, but the plague and the yellow fever combined have not killed half the number of human beings that the Small-pox has done; and yet, however incredible it may appear, there are individuals who possess the temerity to advertise that they indiscriminately inoculate the Small-pox, the most mortal of all other pestilence whatever. In London alone, it has been remarked, that it kills above 2000 persons every year, besides those on whom it inflicts blindness, evil, sores, stiff-joints, and other maladies; whilst the Cow-pock has neither killed or maimed one individual, although it has been practised throughout half of the globe, and has already nearly exterminated the Small-pox from most of the kingdoms in Europe, the British only excepted; against which every other maritime state should immediately institute a rigid quarantine, and continue it as long as we tolerate this most infectious and deadly poison, in order to prevent its introduction into those countries, where the good sense of the people and the wholesome regulations of the government may have annihilated it; for if we remain obstinate enough to keep up the disease, and to propagate it among ourselves by inoculation, we have no right to destroy our neighbours on the continent of Europe, by a pestilence which may be conveyed by infected cloths, twelve months after the existence of the disease.

In London there die upwards of 18,000 persons every year; of these rather more than 6,000 die in infancy; that is, there die about fifty persons every day, of whom seventeen are children, and of these children six die daily by the Small-pox and inoculation. To proceed in this statement, founded on facts, about 700 persons die every fourteen days in London; or 233 children in the common course of human events; that is;

supposing that no disease were communicated to them by art. Now it is highly important to observe that upwards of 18,000 children have been inoculated with the Cow-pock in one year; and in the casual course of human events, taking the whole duration of the Cow-pock process at 14 days, there should have died of these vaccinated children during the process, no less a number than 233; but contrary to the common course of human events, and of casual deaths, instead of 233 having died, not one has suffered the least injury, much less the loss of a single life; but had these children not been inoculated with the Cow-pock it would hence be reasonable to conclude that this number would actually have died; and hence, that besides saving the 6000 children from the destruction of the Small-pox, it may be justly inferred, that it has prevented 233 deaths, which otherwise would have happened, had not the Cow-pock been communicated. These inferences thus afford incontrovertible proofs that the Cow-pock secures, by its agency, a more certain continuance of health to children, than if it had not been employed. I am surprized indeed, the more that I reflect upon the number of deaths daily occurring to children, that none of these casualties has ever occurred during the process of the Cow-pock. If success, therefore, almost beyond belief and previous imagination, be a proof of divine favour and blessing, this discovery of the Cow-pock, is doubly blest and favoured, by the providence of Him who rewards virtuous exertion even in this life.

This ought to produce a grateful and animating reflection to us, who own our countryman as the discoverer of this incalculable blessing, who might say with Joseph to his brethren, "God did send me before to save life." Gen. 45. 5. Let us therefore ardently and generally embrace it, as foreign nations have already done; for by it we may save 50,000 lives a year among ourselves, which ought not to be suffered to be sacrificed by the Small-pox, and the contagious poison which is spread among children by its inoculation; for we want inhabitants to defend this happy country, to promote its commerce, agriculture, and manufactures; and that no method of encreasing its health and population is more effectual than a general inoculation of the Cow-pock, is the confirmed judgment of

THE AUTHOR.

London, July, 1805.

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