

A letter addressed to the legislature on vaccination.

Contributors

Taylor, John.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

[Bath] : [Printed by B. Higman], [1821]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nz3pg3v2>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. 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.

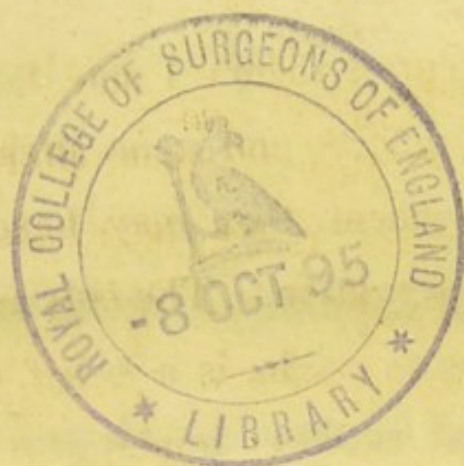
You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



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







A LETTER
ADDRESSED
TO
MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
THE LEGISLATURE
ON
VACCINATION.



A LETTER

ADDRESSED

TO

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

THE LEGISLATURE

ON

Above the various subjects

VACCINATION.

intended to excite the Public attention,

is probably none more interesting to

the sense of Humanity, or the feelings of

than the one upon which I now

to induce you to which I

presume an apology to be unnecessary, since it must be considered as falling under the cognizance of the Legislature; from the Discovery having received its sanction, by the reward and approbation bestowed upon its Founder, the philanthropic Dr. Jenner,—to whom this Country and the World at large are so much indebted. Many of you can be no strangers to the reported failures of this great discovery—Vaccination—in several parts of this kingdom; more particularly at the present

time, and which is the case in my own immediate neighbourhood. A few years since a similar circumstance took place at Ringwood, in Hampshire; the ill effects of which were entirely counteracted, by the prompt and spirited interference of the Medical Men in that neighbourhood: but the affair has now assumed a more serious aspect, and I am sorry to observe the minds of many well-informed Persons becoming sceptical in their confidence as to the good effects of Vaccination, in its

prevention of that loathsome and frequently so fatal Pest the small Pox. Unless therefore the Public Mind can be set at rest upon this most important subject by the result of a due inquiry, and the avowed opinion of the Medical Professors given under the sanction of the Legislature; the most alarming consequences may be anticipated. Upon a subject involving such a difference of opinion, I think every one must admit that it becomes indispensably necessary to guard against a bias which

would be the means of causing confluent Small Pox to spring up again in its worst form—as the objection to Vaccination if suffered to gain ground, and the discountenance of the Profession to Small Pox inoculation (from a just opinion of, and confidence in the former); could not fail to give rise to it—and thereby endanger the comfort of the whole Community.

I cannot advance a stronger proof of the necessity for this appeal to

you, than a letter having (in consequence
I presume of these reported failures) lately
appeared in one of the Newspapers with
Dr. Jenner's signature.

Prompted by strong feelings of interest in the subject, both as it regards my own Profession, and the Public at large, and being myself a Parent; I have the strongest inducement to encourage my thus venturing to arrest your attention, and solicit your interference on a subject

of such vital importance to the rising generation—from a firm conviction that something is now required to allay a partial anxiety, which may otherwise lead to an almost general disapprobation on the part of the Lower Classes, to probably one of the greatest benefits and blessings, which the healing art has ever discovered or bestowed.

Whether Vaccination prove
in all cases a sure preventive of Small

Pox, or whether in some, that Disease may have followed in a more mitigated form—still the great advantages resulting from it must be apparent: but as this Letter is addressed with a view to court Inquiry, I wish to avoid adding any remarks which would more justly belong to a Medical Essay.

To you then, as Guardians of the Public Welfare, I beg leave to make this appeal, from a sincere belief that

whatever is in any way connected there-
with you will not deem unworthy your
consideration.—I am fully aware of the
difficulty of legislating upon this as well
as many other points, but I would beg
leave to observe, that had some Law been
enacted at the time of the Discovery re-
ceiving your approbation and reward, to
restrain the spread of variolous contagion,
or otherwise support Vaccination, by such
measures as might to the wisdom of Par-
liament have appeared fitting—that this

virulent Pest would have been principally if not wholly exterminated.—And when we look at the advantages resulting to other Countries from their adoption and strong countenance of Vaccination, it becomes matter of serious regret that the one which has to boast this valuable discovery should enjoy them only in a partial degree.

I would therefore beg leave most respectfully to submit to your con-

sideration the necessity for an Investigation of these reported failures of Vaccination, by which the Public confidence in the subject would be restored;—and this I beg farther to submit might be done either in a Committee appointed by you, or by a Report from the Medical Profession* ob-

* And to whom I would suggest the propriety of submitting Vaccination to a full test, by inoculating (where admissible) some hundreds or thousands of Persons with Small Pox who have been previously and many years since Vaccinated.

tained under your direction, including Reports from the various Districts in which failures have taken place.

I have the honour to be,

My LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

With great deference and respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. TAYLOR, M. D.

*Physician Extraordinary to H. R. H. the
Duke of Clarence.*

Clifton, March 12, 1821.

signed under your direction including Reports
from the various Districts in which
business have taken place

I have the honour to be

My Lords and Gentlemen

With great deference and respect

Your most obedient Servant

J. TAYLOR, M. D.

Parliamentary Secretary to H. B. H. the

Duke of Devon

Chilworth, March 12, 1825

Printed by J. G. Smith,
at the New Printing Press,

