No. 8

THE VACCINE SCOURGE.

No. III.

CONTAINING THE CAMBRIDGE REPORT,

WITH

A POETICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL EPISTLE

FROM

A BONE-SETTER.

A ROD FOR THE FOOL'S BACK.

London: Printed for the Editor, and sold by J. CALLOW, Medical Bookseller, Crown Court, Princes Street, Soho.

1810.

Price One Shilling.

THE VACCINE SCOURGE.

THE second number of this publication contains the Report of the Royal Jennerian Society, concerning the false alarm at Ringwood; the present contains their Report concerning the false alarm at Cambridge.

The accuracy of the former was questioned by Mr. Birch; and it is reasonable to expect, that when a man has circulated a false report, he should endeavour to defend it.

It was also questioned by Dr. Carneiro, a Portuguese:——"This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge."

The truth is, he came over to England determined to oppose vaccination; and, as birds

of a feather flock together, it was natural that he should associate with such characters as Dr. Moseley, Dr. M'Lean, Dr. Reece, Dr. Caton, Dr. Squirrel, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Gaunt, Mr. John Gale Jones, and Mr. Lipscomb.

> Great souls by instinct to each other turn,
> Demand alliance, and in friendship burn.

As a specimen of his candour, the Editors of the London Medical Review observe, that the Ringwood cases cut a great figure in his book; but he takes no notice whatever of the inquiry into those cases, and their successful termination.

They also observe, that whatever lies the anti-vaccinists tell, he seems to be such a fool as to believe them; and that his book, however harmless it is in this country, may do some mischief in Portugal, where medical science is at a low ebb.

The Ringwood Report has nothing to fear from such opponents; but the Cambridge Report has antagonists of a different stamp to contend with; having been attacked by that doughty knight Sir Isaac Pennington, the Regius Professor, and Mr. David Wray, once a Grocer, now a Bone-setter, Apothecary, and Man-midwife of that place.

These two gentlemen felt sore on reading the Cambridge Report. Let the galled jade wince. It was Sir Isaac who talked about small-pox without eruptions, and cow-pox without inflammation; it was Mr. David Wray who inoculated for the small-pox with a seton, and, when failures had occurred, pretended it was the cow-pox.

Some people imagine, as Sir Isaac is a Professor, and a Royal Professor too, that he gives lectures on the healing art, and those of no ordinary kind; but as there is no royal road to geometry, so, alas! there is no royal road to physic. The fountains of medical science, in both our English universities, are dried up; and medical students are under the necessity of seeking elsewhere that instruction, which their own alma mater denies.

This is certainly a national reflection, but it may well be doubted whether it is a national loss. Let any man read the following extract of a note from Sir Isaac Pennington to Mr. Thackeray, and then decide the question.

"Sir Isaac Pennington has seen Bush's children in Castle-end. They were vaccinated on Friday the 29th ult. and *none of their arms inflamed.*

"One of them sickened of the small-pox on *the second day after vaccination*, and another

on the fourth. These had taken the infection *before they were vaccinated.*

"The third child sickened of the small-pox on the 16th, and died on the 22d day after vaccination. This had caught the small-pox from one of the others, and could not have any infection at the time it was vaccinated."

Here, to use the language of that learned body to which the worthy knight belongs, on a similar occasion, Sir Isaac convicts himself of "gross ignorance, or wilful misrepresentation," by pretending that these three children had been vaccinated previously to the occurrence of the small-pox; and then giving us to understand, in the very same breath, that their arms never inflamed, and consequently that they were not vaccinated at all.

But as if even this specimen of his profound ignorance of the subject of vaccination, which he pretends to know better than any member of the Jennerian Society, were not sufficient, he sometime afterwards brought up to the College of Physicians, what he calls, "A list of persons who have lately had the small-pox in Cambridge, after vaccination with proper effect;" and then, to heighten the farce, and shew how well he was acquainted with what was going forward in the medical world, he entered into a correspondence with the

editor of the Medical Observer; a work in which he and his colleagues are represented as no better than so many old women.

To shew how far he is a judge of the proper effect of vaccination, he subjoins the following remarks. "In addition to the list sent herewith, I have seen seven cases of natural small-pox, in which vaccination had been previously tried, and in four of them repeatedly, *without producing any effect.*

Here Sir Isaac forgets the old adage, *ex nihilo nihil fit.* If we were to reckon up all the Royal Professors of Physic at Cambridge, who have taught that inestimable art *with effect*, and then to mention Sir Isaac, who does not teach it at all, we should make a very poor addition to the list.

So conscious are the College of Physicians, that Sir Isaac, who differs in opinion from every other fellow of that learned society, is incompetent to decide such a question, that they have not published his letter, which otherwise they were in duty bound to do, lest they should expose their brother's nakedness. It is a strong argument, against the probability of his statement, that the greatest number of patients, in Cambridge and the neighbourhood, were vaccinated by Mr. Thackeray; but the greatest number of failures, even according to

his own account, occurred in the practice of Mr. Okes and his assistant.

It is not likely that vaccination, if properly conducted, would prove so much more unsuccessful at Cambridge than elewhere; nor that Sir Isaac, of whose extraordinary discernment nobody ever heard till then, should at once discover such frequent failures in the practice, which all the rest of the College of Physicians, when commanded by the King and Parliament of Great Britain, had so long endeavoured to discover, but in vain. It must, however, be recollected, that the great champion of vaccination at Cambridge, was Mr. Thackeray, on whom Sir Isaac has always looked with a jealous eye.

Sir Isaac, who reaps where he has not sown, and finds professional science where he has not planted it, examines the candidates for the medical diploma of that university; and, when Mr. Thackeray offered himself as a candidate for that honour, Sir Isaac refused to examine him, because he had polluted his hands with surgery; though he has examined others, who had polluted their hands with the pestle and mortar.

This is the more singular, as Mr. Thackeray sought elsewhere, what was not to be obtained at Cambridge; and had the best medical educa-

tion which London, Edinburgh, and Paris, could afford. Nay, it is asserted, that he did not ask for his diploma, till he had complied with academic forms, by keeping his terms at Emanuel's, and eating as many College puddings as the statutes of the University require.

Some people are so ill-natured as to suspect, that Sir Isaac refused Mr. Thackeray his diploma, not because he had defiled his hands with surgery, as Hippocrates and Galen had done before him, but because he was a formidable rival; that he therefore determined to mortify him, and to stifle his bantling in the birth.

This accounts for his antipathy to vaccination; and whatever public-spirited motives the opponents of the practice may pretend to, there is not a single instance on record, in which their hostility may not be clearly traced either to personal interest, or private resentment, or to both.

So anxious was Sir Isaac to explode vaccination, that when he met with the chicken-pox after the cow-pock, he called it the small-pox, as other anti-vaccinists had done before him. Such, indeed, was the virulence, which he displayed in the controversy, that when the deputation waited on him, to inquire into the reports, propagated by him and his partisans,

they could scarcely believe it was a learned Professor with whom they were conversing; it seemed rather to be Dr. Moseley, or Mr. Birch, or Dr. Rowley revived.

The chicken-pox was at that time epidemic at Cambridge, indiscriminately attacking those who had previously either the small-pox or the cow-pox. In one instance, in which Sir Isaac maintained that the case was the small-pox, a child at the next door had the same disorder at that very time; though it had been covered with the small-pox only two months before; and still bore the red marks of it on every part of the body. This fact Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Farish, two eminent surgeons of Cambridge, who had distinguished themselves by their humane exertions in the cause of vaccination, can attest; and even the mothers are convinced, after comparing them together, that the disorders in both children were the same.

With a view of strengthening his argument, Sir Isaac pretended that the eruption was five or six days before it came to its height; but Mrs. Bowles, the mother of the child, positively declared the contrary. She also declared, that the eruptions were "exactly like the little blisters, which came out on his brother for a week together." This account also, was confirmed by Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Farish.

But in the present instance, their testimony is unnecessary; for it is easy to convict Sir Isaac from his own mouth. After stating that the eruptions were somewhat transparent at the top, he tells us, that on the following day they were dried up, and formed into a scab. These eruptions, though somewhat transparent, he calls pustules, and tries to persuade us that they were the small pox; but no one ever saw the small-pox transparent one day, and turned into a scab the next.

He endeavours to establish a mark of distinction between the chicken-pox and the small-pox; but it is one which only exists in his own imagination, and not in nature. He says the vesicles in the chicken-pox are hemispherical, and the pustules in the mild sort of small-pox are conical; but Dr. Willan, who is allowed by all the world to be a much better judge of these things than Sir Isaac, observes, that there are three varieties of the chicken-pox, the lenticular, the globate, and the conoidal, or, as Sir Isaac expresses it, the conical; and as to the mild small-pox, it is well known to those who are acquainted with it, that it is full as often hemispherical as conoidal.

Vogel describes the chicken-pock as similar to the small-pock, but *acuminated;* or, as Sir Isaac calls it, conical. Cullen describes the

small-pox as a plegmonous eruption; which *suppurates in eight days*, and *at length terminates in scabs*. But what occasion has Sir Isaac, or any other man, who is only a professor, and gives no lectures, to trouble his head about Vogel or Cullen.

Notice of the late alarm excited at Cambridge by the enemies of vaccination, and of the dreadful ravages of the small-pox in consequence of that alarm, having been received by the Royal Jennerian Society, together with a request that they would send some of their members to investigate the cases of supposed failure, Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair were desired to undertake this office.

A despicable scribbler in the Medical Journal, who signs his name J. Davies, but takes care not to let us know who or what he is, or where he lives, has thrown out some illiberal and scurrilous reflections on this occasion. He recommends *candour*, but does not practise what he preaches; and, if we may judge from his writings, he has not a single grain of candour in his whole composition. Had it been otherwise, instead of affirming that Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair, the deputation at Cambridge, make it their particular business to represent vaccination as "infallible," he would *candidly* have acknowledged, that they have at all times

been ready to confess the failures of vaccination, when convinced of them.

As a proof of this, they have published failures in the Medical Journal itself. They also signed the Report of the Jennerian Society on this very subject, in which the occasional occurrence of failures was admitted; and as this Report was also signed by Dr. Adams, one of the editors of the Journal,* he must have been conscious, when he inserted this article, that he was inserting a falsehood. It is well known that Dr. Adams, the new editor of the Journal, bears them a grudge, on account of their opposing him in his dissemination of "Morbid Poisons," at the Small-pox Hospital; where he has long been exhibiting a double face, alternately praising and dispraising vaccination, and blowing hot and cold with the same mouth. We therefore advise him, when he publishes such a calumny again, to publish also the residence of the author, lest it should be supposed to be the produce of his own malignity.

His refusal to admit Mr. Blair's answer, in his own words, is no proof of *his* candour. It reminds us of his former conduct, when he pretended to be a great stickler for vaccination,

* See Ring's Answer to Birch, p. 33.

in order to obtain the votes of Dr. Jenner and his friends, and secure his election at the Small-pox Hospital; and at the very same time, with unparalleled duplicity, wrote a complimentary review of Dr. Moseley's trash for the Journal, which he knew would be attributed to Dr. Bradley and Dr. Batty, then editors of the work, in which he recommended *a general inoculation of the small-pox.*

This Journal has rendered considerable service to the cause of vaccination; but it is suspected by many people, that Sir Richard has been hatching mischief, ever since he took Dr. Adams under his wing. It was then gravely announced, that the reviewing department would still continue in the same hands; a circumstance which will enable Dr. Adams still to gratify his ambition, and his revenge, by puffing off his own publications, and depreciating those of his opponents. A gentleman assures us, that he saw Dr. Adams's review of his own book in his own hand-writing, before publication. How long the reviewing department of the Medical Journal will be in his hands, we know not; but we are sure it never can be in worse.

Not only Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair, but the whole Jennerian Society, which contains some of the brightest ornaments of the medical

profession, and of society at large, are calumniated by that contemptible upstart, J. Davies; and the hirelings of the Journal have neither shewn their sense, nor a sense of justice, nor consulted the interest of their master, when they inserted such a slander.

Quid domini facient, audent cum talia fures?

This is not the first instance, in which the editors of that publication have deviated from the justice and impartiality, which they ought on all occasions to observe. In some instances they have garbled the letters sent to them for insertion, either to serve their own views, or those of their party; in others they have attacked the moral or professional characters of respectable individuals, and refused to insert a reply. Their punishment has been long delayed, but it will fall the heavier at last:

——————— raro antecedentem scelestum
Deseruit pede poena claudo.

Almost every eminent practitioner has already withdrawn his correspondence and patronage from the work, though he has only Hobson's choice; for as to the two other medical journals, the Medical Observer and the Medical Spectator, published in the metropolis, both of

which are bantlings of Dr. Reece, the Medical-Chest man, bandied about from one proprietor to another, and from one editor to another, till nobody knows on one day, who will be the editor or the proprietor on the next, no man of any character will write in them. As to the Observer, though Mr. Lipscomb, alias Dr. Lipscomb, has retired, Dr. Walker is its "constant reader," and his own panegyrist; and Dr. Moseley and Mr. Birch are its constant correspondents. It is there they vent their venom on the College of Physicians, and on vaccination.

J. Davies is so arrogant and conceited as to suppose, that the Jennerian Society can do nothing without his advice and assistance: he thinks they should not have sent two of their own champions on this errand, but two parties of contrary opinions. We therefore desire him to inform us, whether, on any future occasion, he would wish the members of the society, which is honoured with the patronage of all the Royal Family, to be seen in company with any of the miscreants, called anti-vaccinists; one of whom has narrowly escaped the pillory, and only escaped it by perjury, and another has narrowly escaped the gallows.

J. Davies admits, that Dr. Rowley's cases are the unconnected effusions of a mind poisoned

by extravagant opinions; yet he is so ignorant as to suppose, that the public will think some attention due to him, as the author of a publication, called the New School of Medicine. This reminds us of Dr. Rowley's own pamphlet on the cow-pox, in which he observes, that some people act as if they supposed all the rest of the world to be fools. This is precisely the case with J. Davies; for had he not supposed the public to be fools, he would not offer so gross an insult to their understanding. No man of common sense will pay more attention to the unconnected effusions of Dr. Rowley, than to the unconnected effusions of J. Davies.

As to Dr. Adams, the new editor of the Journal, who is now so highly advanced in rank and dignity, and bears his blushing honours thick about him, we wish to be informed, whether he imbibed his extraordinary knowledge behind his counter, when he was an apothecary in Basinghall Street, or whether he derived it from inspiration. We have never heard that he drew it from the fountains of learning at any university; and can hardly conceive that he acquired it at Madeira, where he saw cow-pocks, a month after their time, every where but on the arm; or in the Small-pox Hospital, where he saw small-pocks nowhere but on the arm. The latter he calls pearl-pocks; but he keeps them

all for his own use, and takes care not to cast his pearls before swine.

Dr. Adams says, that with respect to eruptions in the cow-pox, he is content to stand on the same footing with Dr. Woodville. Mr. Ring has shewn, in his Treatise on the cow-pox, that Dr. Woodville stands on very slippery footing; and in the Medical Journal, that Dr. Adams does not stand on any footing at all; and Mr. Young has shown in the Medical Journal, that his hypothesis about hydatids in cancer has no better foundation, than his visionary notions about the small-pox and the cow-pox.

Mr. Guest's welcome-guest, Mr. De Maineduc's animal magnetism, Mr. Perkins's metallic tractors, and Dr. Moseley's instructions for inoculation, his panacean pills, and ginger powder, are great humbugs; but they are nothing in comparison of the pearl pock, and other feats of conjuration, brought forward at the Pancras Theatre by Dr. Adams. The Bottle-conjurer was a surprising man; but he did not blow hot and cold with the same mouth; nor write on the two sorts of inoculation in such a manner, as to leave his readers in doubt which to prefer. As to Dr. Adams himself, he is like the Scotch bishop, who was offered his choice of Bath and Wells. He prefers *Both.*

Some people have more penetration than we can pretend to, and can discover wonderful genius in his writings; which is the more extraordinary, if he was only bred an apothecary, as is commonly reported; but, for our own parts, we are so dull of apprehension as to coincide in opinion with some of the reviewers. One half of his doctrines we do not understand; the other half we do not believe.

When he was going to settle at Madeira, he was admitted as an extra licentiate in Warwick Lane. This is a pretty feather in the cap of an apothecary; and as the examination is only in English, and the practitioner who is decorated with it quits the metropolis, it is a bauble easily procured by means of a friend at court, or rather a friend in the college. Dr. Adams also dignified himself with a diploma; but it is not certain, whether it was purchased at St. Andrew's, or at Aberdeen where Dr. Brodum purchased his diploma, or at that celebrated university, where one diploma was purchased for a horse, and another for an ass.

This, however, is certain, that when the College granted him a licence to kill game, they never conceived he would have the audacity to return to the metropolis, to become a physician of the Small-pox Hospital and the Finsbury Dispensary; to poach on their premises,

to kill game on their manor, and to tread on their heels.

When he began to practice as a physician in London, one of the censors assured us, that we should not see him practice in that manner a twelvemonth; meaning, that he should be checked in his career, like other irregulars, from Dr. Campbell and Dr. Clarke down to Dr. Squirrel and Dr. Reece; and even down to Dr. Brodum, and the notorious John Walker. This, however, was but an empty menace; for several years have elapsed; and instead of being interdicted in his practice, and again banished from the metropolis, he has been vested with new honours, and elected a licentiate, by that very College whose power he defied.

This statement would have been perfectly incredible; and we should have thought it mere irony, and a satire on him, as well as a libel on the College, particularly on Sir Lucas Pepys, the President, by whom he was proposed; had not Dr. Adams announced his own triumph, in a most pompous and ostentatious manner, in the very Journal of which he is the under journeyman, by telling the world, that a physician is admitted to town practice, on such respectable recommendation, and that this physician is

Dr. Adams. On this occasion we must say, that Dr. Adams is the last man in the world, whom we expected to be admitted to this privilege; and that Sir Lucas Pepys is the last man in the world, whom we expected to propose him.

Audentes fortuna juvat. Instead of provoking persecution, by his defiance of the College, and drawing down their vengeance on his devoted head, as other poor devils of irregulars had done, he is exalted, as it were, by a magic wand, above all the apothecaries, and all the surgeons, in Great Britain. As to his assertion, that he is admitted to town practice by the College, this is a mere puff, and a false pretence; for he long ago admitted himself to all the town practice which he could get, particularly to inoculation of both kinds, and attendance in the natural small-pox, from which he has reaped a plentiful harvest, having first sown the seed of that fatal pestilence.

The governors of the Small-pox Hospital hesitated to admit him as a candidate for the office of Physician to that institution. They did not know how easily a counterfeit may be stamped, like a dollar, at the mint in Warwick Lane, and converted into current coin.

The College appear to have acted, on this occasion, rather from whim or caprice, than

from reason; and to have determined to shew the world what they could do. Of this, however, we are perfectly convinced, and so is all the world, that if the College had followed the example of other learned societies, and elected Dr. Jenner instead of Dr. Adams, they would have enrolled the favourite pupil of John Hunter among their licentiates; and not the mere echo of that great man. But perhaps, the college may think proper to postpone such improvements in their internal economy, till the period of medical reform.

Investigation of the pretended Failures at Cambridge.

When the deputation of the Jennerian Society arrived at Cambridge, they waited on their correspondent Mr. Thackeray, the principal friend of vaccination at that place; by whom they were introduced to Sir Isaac Pennington, whom they soon discovered to be the principal enemy of the practice in that part of the kingdom.

When they had produced their credentials to Sir Isaac, he took up a large sheet list of names; and asked whether there were not two Jennerian Societies in London? On which a member of the Deputation replied, that there was a

genuine society of this description; but that a spurious one had lately sprung up, calling itself the London Vaccine Institution. Sir Isaac then remarked, that he saw the names of several respectable persons in this society, which was readily admitted: but at the same time it was observed, that the names and subscriptions of many of those persons were obtained by false pretences; and that others were set down as patrons, without their consent, and contrary to their express injunction.

Those distinguished characters, among whom were the Duke of Richmond, the President, and Mr. Rose, Mr. Wilberforce, and Mr. Isaac Hawkins Brown, Vice-presidents, when their patronage was solicited for a vaccine institution, little suspected that it was solicited for an institution hostile to Dr. Jenner; an institution founded for the sake of an impostor; and that their names were to serve as a decoy to other patrons and other subscribers. We have already mentioned, that the Duke of Richmond, who subscribed fifty guineas, had withdrawn his name from this impostor. He and his colleagues have several times advertised his Grace as President of their institution, since he withdrew his patronage; but they have discontinued that presumptuous and unwarrantable manœuvre, since we announced in

pox, in which there was no inflammation of the arm.

It was suggested by Mr. Thackeray, that some of these cases, which Sir Isaac called the small-pox, had in reality been the chicken-pox. A short discussion then took place, in which Sir Isaac endeavoured to support his opinion by that of the late Dr. Heberden; and one of the members of the Deputation endeavoured to support his opinion by that of Dr. Willan. This he did in the most respectful terms, and with more deference than Sir Isaac deserved; but, finding himself worsted in the argument, Sir Isaac lost his temper, and took fire at it; exclaiming, "Gentlemen, I perceive that you come here for the sake of cavilling and quibbling, and not to ascertain the truth." One of the Deputation then instantly rose, and said, if this is Sir Isaac's opinion, it is unnecessary to give him any farther trouble.

Anxious, however, to discharge the important trust reposed in them, the Deputation asked him to give them a list of the failures which he supposed to have taken place; to which he replied, Mr. Thackeray attended most of the cases; and he can give the best account of them. Thus ended the conference; in which Sir Isaac's inferiority was so very apparent, that it was no great wonder he brought it to an abrupt conclusion.

[*To be continued.*]

Printed by J. and W. Smith, King Street, Seven Dials.

THE VACCINE SCOURGE.

No. III.—Part II.

CONTAINING THE CAMBRIDGE REPORT,

WITH

A POETICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL EPISTLE

FROM

A BONE-SETTER.

A ROD FOR THE FOOL'S BACK.

London: Printed for the Editor, and sold by J. CALLOW, Medical Bookseller, Crown Court, Princes Street, Soho.

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Price One Shilling.

[*Continued from Part I.*]

THE VACCINE SCOURGE.

SOME practitioners at Cambridge, who had been most active in seconding Sir Isaac's efforts, were also invited, by repeated applications, to assist in the enquiry; but not one of them attended; which renders it probable, that they were as unequal to the task as the Regius Professor.

These particulars it was necessary to state, in answer to the insidious assertion of J. Davies, in the Medical Journal, that the Jennerian Society did not employ any but their own champions, to investigate controverted cases. There is nothing which such a man as J. Davies will not assert.

Printed by J. & W. Smith, King-ſtreet, Seven-dials.

Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Farish attended the Deputation in their inquiry; of which the following is the result.

" ROYAL JENNERIAN SOCIETY,

Under the Patronage of

THEIR MAJESTIES AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.

" *Salisbury Square, August* 19, 1808.

" THE Royal Jennerian Society for the Extermination of the Small-pox having received information, that considerable alarm had been excited by reports of supposed failures in vaccination at Cambridge, requested the favour of Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair to proceed thither immediately, for the purpose of investigating those reports. In this request of the Society the above Gentlemen readily acquiesced; and they have since laid before the Board of Directors a particular statement, of which the following is a general Abstract.

" *General Result of an Inquiry into the unfavourable Reports concerning Vaccination at Cambridge, by the Deputation of the Royal Jennerian Society, August 5th,* 1808.

" The small-pox has been very prevalent and very fatal at Cambridge, for ten weeks past; during which period a considerable numberof

children, vaccinated at different times, have been much exposed to the infection of that disorder, which they perfectly resisted.

"In many instances, however, the small-pox was supposed to have occurred after vaccination; in some of which all doubts have been removed: but sixteen cases were deemed still deserving of investigation.

"These cases may be divided into two classes: one, containing those in which there was no regular and complete vaccination; the other, those where the patients have not had the small-pox.

"In some instances, vaccination did not take place in a satisfactory manner; yet these were reckoned among the failures in vaccination, by persons who were prejudiced against the practice.

"In several instances there was only a festering of the arm; or the pock was essentially injured, and the security of the patient thereby diminished. In others, which fell under the observation of two respectable practitioners at Cambridge, and of the Deputation who accompanied them, the chicken-pox was mistaken for the small-pox. In confirmation of this remark it is necessary to state, that the chicken-pox, as well as the small-pox, has for some time been, and still is, very prevalent at Cambridge.

"In two cases, the patients were inoculated for the *small-pox* in the manner of a *seton*, "by a bone-setter, who was formerly a grocer," together with two of his own children; and a festering of the arms was produced. About a month ago, when the small-pox appeared in these four cases, and proved fatal in one of them, he was applied to. Then, and not till then, he pretended that he had not inoculated the children for the small-pox, but for the cow-pock!

"When a child was inoculated for the cow-pock without effect, and afterwards successfully inoculated for the small-pox, this was represented to be *a failure in vaccination!* and when another child, who had been vaccinated, was afterwards seized with a fever *without eruptions*, this also was represented to be *a failure in vaccination!*—Having such prejudices to encounter, it is no wonder that the failures in this practice at Cambridge were supposed to be frequent; but, after a minute and careful inquiry into the circumstances which had excited so general an alarm, it did not appear that a single case of the small-pox occurred there, after regular and complete vaccination.

In this inquiry the Deputation of the Royal Jennerian Society were assisted by two eminent Surgeons of Cambridge, who have had a con-

siderable share in the practice of vaccination; one of them having vaccinated THREE THOUSAND PERSONS. The notes of every case which had been submitted to their investigation, were read to the parents themselves, or the parties concerned, to prevent the possibility of mistake.

JOHN RING.
WILLIAM BLAIR.

"A particular statement of the cases of supposed failure here alluded to, and the original minutes on which that statement is founded, may be inspected by any medical man, on application to Dr. Knowles, Resident Inoculator of the Society, at their Central House, No. 14, Salisbury Square.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

CHARLES MURRAY,
Secretary."

No sooner had the Deputation left Cambridge, than Sir Isaac circulated a report, that their opinion coincided with his own. This artful manœuvre obtained him a temporary triumph; and induced the editor of the Cambridge Chronicle to decline inserting a true account of the transaction in his next paper;

but soon afterwards, this advertisement appeared.

"Cambridge, Aug. 17th, 1808. The opponents of the Jennerian Inoculation, aware of the great importance which the public attach to the late inquiry into the reputed failures of vaccination in this place, affirm that the gentlemen who were sent by the Jennerian Society for this purpose, corroborate the truth of those failures. I therefore beg leave thus publicly to declare, that any such assertion is as groundless as it is injurious; and I have their authority for stating, that they consider the result of their investigation highly favourable to the Jennerian practice.

FREDERIC THACKERAY."

Mr. Thackeray afterwards published the following letter in the same paper.

"*To the Printer of the Cambridge Chronicle.*

"SIR,

In your paper of last week, Sir Isaac Pennington has brought the subject of vaccination again under discussion; and has stated, that he has laid before the College of Physicians twenty-five cases of its failure. If the professor's opinion was well-founded, he would certainly have been culpable in conceal-

ing it; but if not, he is deeply responsible for the evil it will occasion. The authority of his name may shake the confidence of many, who, for years past, have considered their children as safe from all danger of infection; and it will tend to check the future progress of a system, which every friend of humanity must at least wish to be successful. The Report of the Jennerian Society, I thought, had satisfied the most rational part of the community; and I saw with pleasure the inhabitants of our villages submit to vaccination, under a conviction of its security. Their confidence, I trust, is not misplaced; and I feel myself justified, from the attention I have paid to this very important subject, in calling upon the public, at least to suspend their judgment, till the evidence on which the Professor's assertions are founded, is made known.

"It is impossible to know, or even guess, all the cases which compose the document sent to the College of Physicians; but having reason to think that some of the sixteen examined by the Jennerian Society form a part, I must remind the public, that its report declares, "it did not appear that a single case of the small-pox occurred there, after regular and complete vaccination;" that in several of the repeated failures "there was only a festering of the arms," and

that the "chicken-pox was mistaken for the small-pox." Such was the opinion of many other medical men; and I appeal to many of your readers, whether they are not acquainted with the cases which Sir I. Pennington pronounced to be small-pox; though the same eruption had attacked three children in the same family, two of whom only had been vaccinated, and the third had had the small-pox.

"It is also well known, that several children have been inoculated for the small-pox after vaccination; and because, in some of these, the arms festered, Sir I. P. declared them to have the small-pox, though *no eruption appeared.* These cases were seen by other medical men, who thought very differently; and I will venture to say, that if any number of persons who had already undergone the small-pox, were re-inoculated for that disorder, the arms of a large proportion of them would fester, and a slight fever would follow. This not unfrequently happens, when the re-inoculation is occasioned by accidental contact; and many a parent has experienced it, who has nursed her child under this afflicting malady.

"I should long since have laid before the public some remarks on the supposed failures in this place, had I imagined a belief in them existed in the minds of any, except a few preju-

diced persons, who opposed the very introduction of vaccination, before its failures were suspected, and when every known fact was favourable; and until Sir I. Pennington condescends to lay the particulars of his statement before your readers, he must not expect his bare assertion will influence the judgment of cool and dispassionate inquirers; nor will he easily persuade them, that he only is in the right on this subject, and that the College of Physicians and most other scientific men, at home and abroad, are in an error.

Yours, &c.

FREDERIC THACKERAY."

Cambridge, Nov. 3, 1808.

A short time afterwards, the following curious specimen of medical literature appeared in the same paper. It was also published in the Medical Observer; where the author of it is seriously called "the learned Dr. Wray."

"Refert Omnium.

"Mr. Editor,—Sir,

"In perusing your paper of the 5th instant, I read a letter, signed Frederic Thackeray, upon vaccination. It would have given me great pleasure if he had candidly in-

formed the public of every failure which has come under his knowledge, and have left it to be decided by an impartial public, who, as well as myself, must have some philosophical ideas of the nature of things, to judge whether or not, from twenty-five failures of vaccination or more, plainly to be understood by the public in general, the cow-pock, by eminent professional gentlemen, whether it is not likely that as many thousands will take the infection in process of time, it rests for future ages to determine, its efficacy in a single instance in this climate being a recent introduction; in the beginning of its failure, which was not many days after the small-pox became prevalent, at which time an insolent slur appeared in the newspapers that it had been communicated by way of Seton by me, I take this opportunity to inform those publishers, that matter introduced in manner of a Seton, is much more likely to be absorbed into the circulating system of the blood than when slightly carried by a lancet. To this assertion I am sure every professional gentleman of sense will give credit. As to the insertion of the Professor's of the 29th ult. I perfectly coincide with, having examined greater part of the number myself, though not one of them was inoculated by me, and I have to remark, that I never saw any person or per-

sons more heavily afflicted than some of them were, whose arms shewed every true effect of vaccination. The slur which appeared in the papers at that time was only propagated to prejudice my character, but as facts are such stubborn things, they cannot, by vile attempts be done away, and I trust the public will clearly see the cause of such a snarl, and that it will finally terminate to my advantage in every branch of the profession.

" Qui pauca loquitur vir sapit.'

DAVID WRAY."

Castle Street, Cambridge, Nov. 9th, 1808.

Great wits, like Mr. David Wray, have short memories. If Mr. David Wray wrote at all on the subject, he should have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The following copy of verses is intended to supply his defect. It may be entitled,

A POETICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL EPISTLE

from a Bone-Setter.

I a Bone-setter am on the banks of the Cam,
  And no longer a pitiful grocer;
My fortune I made by changing my trade,
  Did I act like a ninny, or no, Sir?

I a Bone-setter am on the banks of the Cam,
And a learned professor of physic;
No sinecure place my name shall disgrace,
I cure gout, I cure cancer and phthisic.

My patient I pull till he roars like a bull,
And set his whole frame in commotion;
" Of you, Sir," he cries, while distracted he lies,
" I will take any thing but your potion."

Sir Isaac looks big, but I care not a fig,
For of Vistulers I am a dresser;
No sinecure place my name shall disgrace,
Though I am a learned professor.

In my Potiker Shop, like the great Doctor Slop
His instruments handling, I look:
I ne'er trouble my brains about natural pains,
But bring children by hook or by crook.

With one sort of physic I cure gout and phthisic,
With ditto I cure diarrheas;
Then let no man deny, that " the public and I
Have some philosophic ideas."

Let Thack'ray defame, and revile my good name,
As to failures, they ought to be known;
Let him therefore expose ev'ry failure he knows,
Ev'ry failure, excepting my own.

When my small-pox had fail'd, I the cow-pox assail'd
Blaming Jenner for what I had done;
Doctor Adams, 'tis true, in his " Popular View,"
Says the small-pox and cow-pox are one.

When a Bone-setter sings of "the nature of things,"
Lucretius may well burst with laughter:
As to failures, I vow, that if one happens now,
A thousand may happen hereafter.

The Jennerian Report, read in country and court,
Cast a slur on my bright reputation;
But when setons I use, I the matter transfuse,
And insure it a quick circulation.

A seton, we know, makes the humours to flow,
A *rowel* the horse-doctors call it:
We the needle push in, and push out thro' the skin,
But we sometimes most terribly mawl it.

What, tho' Ring and Blair my malpractices dare
At the bar of the public indite?
My friends will appear, and my character clear,
Some doctors will swear black is white.

Hereafter, I trust, men will try to be just,
And give over their cynical snarling;
Tho' my rivals invade ev'ry branch of my trade,
The public will cherish their darling.

Sir Isaac and I, for arguments, ply
Ropes of sand most ingeniously twisted;
Day and night up and down we both march'd thro' the [town,
And saw small-pox where no pox existed.

In those very cases where pocks left no traces,
Or punctures had never inflam'd,
Professional blunders escap'd all our thunders,
The cow-pox—the cow-pox we blam'd.

The children we tease with a local disease,
  Such as *commonly* happens to nurses;
We care not a jot whether small-pox or not,
  'Tis a pox that replenish'd our purses.

But when next, my dear friend, lists of failures you [send,
  Recollect, in the last, how you blunder'd;
In your last, man alive, you set down twenty-five,
  Twenty-five!—it was twenty-five hundred.

Bring multiplication, and exaggeration,
  Fit props for a tottering cause;
Tho' Nature's the same throughout her whole frame,
  At Cambridge we cancel her laws.

If wit is deny'd, we have art on our side,
  And never mind telling a story;
What fibs were esteem'd, mere trifles are deem'd
  By doctors contending for glory.

In many of the cases of alleged failure, brought forward by Sir Isaac Pennington, there is no evidence of the patients having had the cow-pock in a proper manner, but their own assertions. Some of the practitioners, who are said to have vaccinated them, resided at a distance from Cambridge; and others were dead when the inquiry took place.

The following instance will afford a sufficient proof of the facility with which Sir Isaac admitted failures. He states, that Mary Livermore, vaccinated by Mr. Okes five years ago,

had the small-pox in July, 1808. Nothing, however, could be more evident than that this eruption was the chicken-pox, which had for some time been prevalent in an adjoining yard; where one child lately vaccinated, and another in the same family, who was just recovered from the small-pox, and still bore the red marks of it in many parts of the body, had the same disorder.

It has been affirmed in that vile publication, the Medical Observer, that Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair were paid by the Jennerian Society; it is therefore only justice to state, that whatever services they rendered the Society, on this or any other occasion, they constantly refused to accept of any pecuniary recompense.

It was also insinuated in the same vile publication, by that notorious calumniator John Birch, whose falsehoods they have so often detected and exposed, that they were discarded by the Society, and that others were elected in their room. It is therefore proper to state, that no other Deputation was appointed in their room, till they had declined the office, for reasons not necessary to be specified in this place. The following vote of thanks is a sufficient proof, that their conduct on the present occasion gave the greatest satisfaction to the Society.

"*Royal Jennerian Society for the Extermination of the Small-pox.*

"At a special meeting of Directors, Monday, August 15th, 1808, present Dr. Stone, Vice-president, in the chair,

"Resolved, that the Thanks of this Board be given to Mr. Ring and Mr. Blair, for the very able and proper manner in which they conducted the Investigation at Cambridge; and for their Report of the same.

CHARLES MURRAY,
Secretary."

Observations on Sir Isaac's Cases.

Among the cases of pretended failure brought forward by Sir Isaac, the six first are those of persons said to have been vaccinated in other parts of the kingdom; one of them by Mr. Mingay of Thetford, who was dead when the inquiry took place; and the seventh is said to have been vaccinated by Mr. Palmer of Cambridge, who was also dead at the time of the inquiry. Of course we have no satisfactory proof that vaccination succeeded in any one of the cases. This circumstance, however, is a sufficient proof, that Sir Isaac is trying to support a desperate cause; and that he, as well as

our London Anti-vaccinists, "has raked the very kennels for evidence against the practice." Dying men lay hold of straws.

The eighth case is that of Mary Livermore. This child had the chicken-pox; and her brother had the same disorder at the very period when the investigation took place, though he had a heavy crop of the small-pox only two months before, and the red marks were still in his face.

The eighteenth, twenty-first, and twenty-second, are some of those in the same neighbourhood, which Sir Isaac endeavoured to persuade the mothers were the small-pox. The contrary, however, was clear to every old woman in Cambridge—except one.

Of the ninth, tenth, fifteenth, and seventeenth, we have not been able to learn any particulars: they must, therefore, rest on that slender prop, Sir Isaac's assertion.

The eleventh is that of Roditt Robson; inoculated by Mr. Okes's assistant, according to her own account, but, according to Sir Isaac's account, by Mr. Okes himself. It was investigated by the Deputation, in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Plumptre, and Mr. Thackeray. The following statement was given by Mrs. Robson; and confirmed by her husband.

She was inoculated for the cow-pock three

years before, with threads, inserted by way of incision; and her arms became highly inflamed. She had also much constitutional indisposition. A child at her breast used alternately to lie on each arm during the night; in consequence of which the pocks were frequently rubbed, and broken down. The scabs were first yellow, and afterwards brown: but they were several times rubbed off, and her arms were in a state of ulceration almost three months.

She has had the small-pox, of the confluent kind; but we have no sort of proof that she has had the cow-pock; and if the dictates of prudence, and the rules laid down by the best judges, had been followed, she would have been inoculated again.

This is one specimen of Cambridge practice; we shall now state another. Her eldest child was inoculated, we will not say *vaccinated*, from her; and an inflammation, as large as half-a-crown, was produced in each arm; followed by "*about a dozen eruptions in different parts of the body, resembling the small-pox*," but not so large. Mrs. Robson positively declares, that the matter taken from her arm for the inoculation of her child, was *thick* and *white;* and that her arms were inflamed at the time, as large as a crown piece. The scars in

the child are extremely small. They are not depressed in the usual manner, but concave; and have none of the foveolæ which commonly remain after vaccination.

Here we cannot help noticing, that Sir Isaac has not mentioned any of these circumstances, which militate so strongly against his Report: but none are so blind as those who will not see.

The twelfth case is that of Elizabeth Short, inoculated for the cow-pock by Mr. Okes's assistant. The scar on her arm is very small and superficial. Her mother states, that "*the pock rose high*, and contained *thick white matter*; that it looked *exactly like the small-pox;* and that the scab into which it turned, *exactly resembled that of the small-pox.*" Her father and mother both declare, that there were two other pocks on her arm, of a similar appearance, though she was only inoculated in one place. We have therefore no reason to doubt, that this child, as well as Mrs. Robson's, was inoculated with purulent matter. Pus generat pus.

From the testimonials of Mr. Okes, and ~~his late assistant,~~ Mr. Stanley, by whom these inoculations were performed, it appears, that the said performances were perfectly satisfactory to themselves; perhaps they were satisfactory to

Sir Isaac also; but it is probable they will not be satisfactory to any body else.

The thirteenth case is that of Mr. Watson's child, inoculated by Mr. Okes. She has two small irregular scars on her arms; and, at the time of the inquiry, she also had marks of the small-pox, from which she was then just recovered. Mr. Watson informed the Deputation, that the pocks on her arms bore an exact resemblance to those on the arms of Mr. Isola's child, whom Mr. Thackeray thought it necessary to inoculate again.

Mr. Okes inoculated Miss Watson five times before any effect was produced; a pretty good proof that his matter was none of the most active kind; the two last times from Mr. Rowe's child. The fifth operation produced some effect, both local and general; but neither Mr. nor Mrs. Watson could give any particular account of the appearances on her arms. They stated, however, that there was *considerable inflammation* on the arm of Mr. Rowe's child, when the matter for the last inoculation was taken.

Mrs. Rowe declares, that when the last matter was taken from her child, *the inflammation was at its height;* that the pock was turned, and *brownish on its surface;* and is positive that the matter was *thick* and *white*, and not

clear like water. She said it was so very thick, that it resembled custard.

The fourteenth and sixteenth were cases of chicken-pox.

The nineteenth is the case of Susan Dean, vaccinated by Mr. Thackeray in the first year of his practice. The mark on her arm is much too large and irregular; shewing that ulceration took place; and consequently, that the process of vaccination was incomplete.

The twentieth is the case of Mary Ann Rickwood; in whom the chicken-pox since occurred; but in the jaundiced eye of Sir Isaac, it looked like the small-pox. Dr. Sill, who attended the child, declared that there was a scab on every eruption on the third day. He pronounced it to be the chicken-pox, and told the knight so; but as there are none so blind as those who will not see, so there are none so deaf as those who will not hear.

The twenty-first and twenty-second are those of John and Benjamin Bowles. One of these children had the chicken-pox in the usual form at the time of the inquiry; and his mother declared, that they were "*exactly like the little blisters*, which had come out on his brother three weeks before."—This was confirmed by Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Farish.

The twenty-third is that of a shoemaker's

The following are extracts from his other letter to Mr. Ring, to which Dr. Wall alludes.

"I ought long ago to have thanked you for your obliging present of the first part of your Treatise on the Cow-pox; but a great variety of engagements prevented me. I have been extremely pleased with the perusal of your impartial history of this invaluable discovery; and your firm and manly defence of it against calumny and detraction. I hope the general voice of the nation, speaking in Parliament, will give its sanction to the merits of our excellent friend Dr. Jenner, by remunerating in the best way it can, for it never can render an adequate compensation, the eminent services which he has conferred on the state.

"From the day when I first received intimation of Dr. Jenner's discovery, to the present hour, my opinion has never varied; though cases, exciting scepticism in some gentlemen have occurred. Many of them have been explained; and others might, I have no doubt, had it been possible to develope the whole progress of the several cases.

"Accept, Sir, my thanks for the exertions which you have made in this great cause; and though I have not the pleasure of your personal acquaintance, assure yourself, that I feel every sentiment of regard for a gentleman, who has proved himself so eminently the promoter of medical science, directed to its best end, the preservation of the lives of millions.

I am, &c.

"*Oxford, March 29th*, 1802. MARTIN WALL."

THE END.

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