

Vaccination, as it was, and, as it is : a vital question impartially considered in all its bearings, with practical suggestions / by William Webber.

Contributors

Webber, William, 1800-1875.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

London : Henry Renshaw, 1871.

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18

VACCINATION:

AS IT WAS; AND, AS IT IS.

A

VITAL QUESTION

IMPARTIALLY CONSIDERED IN ALL ITS BEARINGS.

With Practical Suggestions.

BY

WILLIAM WEBBER, F.R.C.S.,

&c., &c.

FOUNDER OF THE FIRST HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, 1852;

AUTHOR OF

"THE CATTLE MURRAIN," 1865, AND OF VARIOUS MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PAPERS;

DISCOVERER OF THE "DYE DISEASE," 1868;

FORMERLY SURGEON TO THE "NORWICH FREE HOSPITAL FOR
THE HOPELESS."

"Quot homines, tot sententiæ."

Sine ratione, nihil.

LONDON:

HENRY RENSHAW, 356, STRAND.

1871.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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To the
RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P.,
PRESIDENT OF THE
"VACCINATION INQUIRY COMMISSION,"

The following Pages

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
LAND OFFICE

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

FOR THE YEAR

1887

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
PRINTING OFFICE, 1887.

ERRATA.

Page 23, line 14, for "*cox-pox*" read "*cow-pox*."

Page 44, 7 lines from bottom, delete "*or suffered*."

Page 45, line 12, for "*connection*" read "*concession*."

ERRATA.

Page 22, line 14, for "one" read "two".
Page 24, line 1, for "one" read "two".
Page 25, line 12, for "one" read "two".

INTRODUCTION.

IF people have not any reason, they are, at least, supposed (or held), to have a motive for what they say or do. "Of course that would be so," as Lord Dundreary would say (whether they eat to live, or live to eat; chew aloes for taste, or swallow aloes in pills to avoid tasting it; or prefer to have small-pox with the chance of being killed by it, instead of trying to supplant it, or to stifle its malignity by feeding it upon itself in its own way; as viper's venom by viper's fat is mollified, and is harmless made, by diluent of its kind, 'tis said). And whether you, kind reader, have a fancy for the "trade marks" of small-pox or not, or may care or not to know the reason why I have taken up the subject, I will frankly tell you how it came about that I am found in it.

The fact is—it is therefore a fact,—I did not seek to take it up, but I was sought out, and have indeed been taken up by it, as though I had been a *nolens volens* offender against the wise, or otherwise, absolute clause of the "Compulsory Vaccination Act."

In the beginning of last October, a few days after my return to town, (from whence I had been absent many months in consequence of a severe and all but fatal attack of rheumatic gout,) I was asked to give my opinion as to the utility of vaccination, and also as to the fairness and propriety of its compulsory adoption.

I was not surprised to find that a great stir was on foot, which I had long expected would take place, as the result of persistent neglect to keep pure a most valuable appliance of science; the evils arising out of such carelessness, and the forced submission to them, being more than sufficiently obvious to necessitate and justify the move.

Feeling that where there is an indisputably grave question involved, one too of such vital importance and primary interest, whether individually or socially viewed, as the one at issue, all and each should put a hearty shoulder to the wheel, that a safe rest may be reached, I unhesitatingly assented to comply with the expressed wish.

I had scarcely done so when my attention was attracted by a placard announcing that a public meeting would take place on the 19th (of October), for the purpose of considering and discussing the merits or demerits of the case, a copy of which bill will be found in page 8 of this pamphlet.

As a few days' delay in my reply would make no material difference, I decided upon postponing it till after the meeting.

Thither I went, with the intention of taking part in the discussion, in furtherance of the object held out, and when, too, I might possibly be able to state all that was required of me as to my views of and sentiments upon the subject. I found myself, when I got there, in a partial assembly, in which one-sided, vehement, and vituperative denunciation, ill-judged and irregular statements were being indulged in, to the exclusion of calm, dispassionate, and unbiassed discussion, so essential to the attainment of the professed object. The opportunity, moreover, was made subservient to a personal attack upon a gentleman, not present to defend himself, imputing to him grossly criminal conduct—in the exercise of one of the highest prerogative functions of the Crown—as her Majesty's representative. I therefore left the hall in disgust, went home, and wrote to the gentleman whose name was loudly proclaimed, acquainting him with what had been declared, for the reasons set forth in the correspondence, which will be found in the appendix.

Hence it was, that in stating my opinion I began my letter, (which will appear in the opening pages of this pamphlet,) by disclaiming anything partaking, or redolent, of party feeling—factious display and despotic rigour, in a *constitutional* question, being as inconvenient and out of place as would be a hot coal in an iced cream.

I must here beg that it be borne in mind, I am speaking as an Englishman, one proud of his envied, and enviable country;

as naturally as professionally jealous (*in re-publicâ*) of anything bearing upon the *constitution*, whether of the (*State*) body politic, or body personal; I utterly abhor as I abjure *in toto*, participation in any move which may tend, in the least, to undermine or upset *either*.

I am never averse to putting down in black and white my opinion when asked, whether upon a public or professional matter, and with perfect indifference as to whether published or not by the PARTY to whom it is privately *addressed*. I therefore made no stipulation as to the use to be made of my letter, which I saw afterwards (not very correctly copied, the writing not being perhaps very legible,) in the columns of a metropolitan newspaper, a copy of which was, I subsequently learnt, sent to several, if not to every member of her Majesty's Government!

Impartially as I had endeavoured to express myself, that letter, as I supposed might be the case, was not satisfactory to all parties, and I was asked to explain my views more fully. Thereupon, with as little interregnum as possible, I drew up and transmitted the summaries with the remarks which constitute almost the entire bulk of the following pages, and which, as also that letter, not then intended for general publication, I have at length agreed to have put in print, reserving to myself to add a few further observations and suggestions.

My principal reason for allowing them to be published is, that there may be no misinterpretation or misunderstanding of my views and feeling in respect of the strangely confused question in debate. For, as far as I have seen, the real point in the case has scarcely been approached in the discussion, which seems to have been almost exclusively confined to the consideration of the wisdom or otherwise of worshipping the hydra-headed bugbear of modern creation, with repulsive features and absolute legislative clause; for which I have not a greater predilection than I have to be operated upon by the insinuating claws of the polar bear.

VACCINATION was not introduced to the world till about two years after I was born. There being a strong prejudice against it (no uncommon greeting to a novel suggestion, however feasible

or commendable, it may be, as a salutary expedient), I was not submitted to the influence of the vaccine disease, or Cow-pox, as it was then more correctly termed, till I was about ten years old.

Hence, being at an age to observe and to be impressed by what occurred at that time, I have a lively recollection of the somewhat painful and feverish ordeal through which I and a younger brother, from whose arm the lymph was transferred to mine, then passed.

These reminiscences, aided by the experience of after years, left indelibly recorded upon my mind the means which have enabled me to describe and contrast VACCINATION as it WAS, with WHAT it IS. I may here mention that not only have some veteran practitioners, to whom the Summary upon Pristine Vaccination was shown, confirmed the description I have given of the different stages of it as being perfectly truthful, but that my views have been endorsed by the great-nephew and coadjutor of the world-famed Jenner, in a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* in the early part of this year, a copy of which will also be found in the appendix.

Such confirmation is the more satisfactory to me, because it comes from one, who, like myself, has lived to an age when public benefit, not personal or private considerations, is the sole incentive to the disclosure of opinion carefully formed and fearlessly as faithfully tendered, that it may benefit others: "*ut proxim aliis*" being the motto I adopted when I entered upon my profession, in lieu of *indomitus*, the ancestral motto of my family. If, whilst respecting *fearlessness*, I have contributed to the *usefulness* of my calling, as I trust I have, my occupation, now bordering closely upon an end, will not have been in vain.

COPY OF PUBLIC HANDBILL.

"COMPULSORY VACCINATION.—Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of St. Marylebone will be held at the Vestry Hall, Marylebone Lane, Wednesday evening, Oct. 19, 1870, 'To take into consideration the existing Acts of Parliament which make Vaccination Compulsory.'

"This Meeting being expressly called that the whole facts bearing on this most important subject may be publicly and ably discussed—that truth may be arrived at in a matter so momentous to public health and well-being,—every Ratepayer, and especially Medical Gentlemen, are earnestly invited to attend and take part in the discussion. F. H. HALLAM, Esq., will take the Chair at 8 o'clock precisely. By Order of Ratepayers' Committee, GEORGE MARGERISON, *Hon. Sec.*"

N.B.—A report of this meeting appeared, but whether by intention, or from there not being convenient space, the eloquent and excellent speeches of Drs. Routh and Thompson and Mr. Glidden—quite to the point—were in that important respect OMITTED!

*From "The Borough of Marylebone Newspaper," Saturday,
October 28th, 1870.*

"ST. MARYLEBONE ANTI-COMPULSORY VACCINATION LEAGUE.

"TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE BOROUGH OF MARYLEBONE NEWSPAPER.'"

"SIR,—In connection with the important meeting, to consider the subject of compulsory vaccination, held last week in your Vestry Hall, I think that the following able and temperate letter from one of the most eminent Surgeons of the day will be read with much interest by the advocates of both sides of the question.

"I am, yours truly,

"A. J. DAYMAN.

"7, Omega Place, N.W.,

"Oct. 24th, 1870.

"20, York Place, Portman Square,

"Oct. 21st, 1870.

"SIR,—In replying to your question as to "my opinion of the merits or demerits of vaccination," I beg, in the first place, to thank you for your courtesy in sending me the reports, &c., of the St. Marylebone meetings, but which I have not had time to more than glance at.

"Before, however, entering further into the subject, you will pardon my remarking *in limine* that I strongly object to the word "League," which to my mind savours more of cliqueism

than of what, I apprehend, is the real motive actuating the St. Marylebone Vaccination Inquiry Association, (as I should prefer to designate it) a due, dispassionate, impartial, and thorough inquiry into the justice, expediency, and sound policy, or otherwise, of a seemingly cruel and compulsory enactment of the Legislature. The sole and simple object of the Association being then, as I understand, to investigate a conceived grievance and serious evil, of course forswears anything approaching to a spirit of levelling, or the destruction of a well-considered, safe, and unobjectionable order of Government, and is guided by no other principle than a desire of aiding in setting right that which appears to be wrong—the best safeguard to all institutions.

“‘This premised, I have no hesitation in stating that vaccination *so called and practised in these days*, and for some time past, differs very widely and not less essentially,—and, I may add, very unsatisfactorily and vexatiously, as regards alike character, application, and result,—from the disease which was introduced as a safe prophylactic of small-pox when I was vaccinated upwards of sixty years ago. The disease, more properly styled vaccination, THEN presented a *vesicular*, NOW a *pustular* exanthem; the former attended with considerable constitutional disturbance as well as severe local inflammation, the latter is seldom marked by either. At the time referred to, vaccination was a veritable and unmistakable disease, possessed of a distinctive character; now it has lost its character and public confidence altogether. It was not then compulsory, and people readily—as they always will do—flew to a remedy that held out the means of averting or mitigating an anxious ailment, especially an ailment so much dreaded as the pestilent and merciless small-pox. Few were they that omitted to avail themselves of the remedy so invitingly held out, because it was found, or conceived to be, efficient in the majority of instances; and this was evidenced or inferred by the undeniable decrease, as also the diminution of the virulence of variola.

“‘Why has it fallen into disrepute—nay, more, popular detestation,—and to such an extent as to render it necessary to enforce its adoption by compulsory enactment?—compulsion seldom being otherwise than a hateful and unpalatable measure, par-

ticularly when it wars against and sets at nought the privileges of birthright, conscientious scruples, and freedom of action. All the Association seeks, I conclude, is to know why vaccination, or rather a doubtful process, known to fall short of the object, now creates such general alarm? Why, in fact, such a deep-rooted disinclination and aversion to its adoption? Why has it been so terrifically unpopular that parents willingly brave the horrors of the law, and suffer fine and imprisonment, rather than subject their offspring (for whose welfare they are anxious as their natural guardians) to the dangerous practice? We hear it said, and it is not easy to gainsay, that in place of its being prophylactic of small-pox, it introduces into healthy and untainted constitutions a blood poison of a far more terrific nature, which eliminates itself in various virulent forms, in accordance with the diathesis and latent tendencies of the hapless recipient of it, and so entails an unmitigable curse instead of a boasted blessing. But it is not uncommon to see abuse supplanting use.

“I could enlarge upon this subject with an indisputable result,—the waste of time and paper, which it would be, in the face, and on the eve of a special meeting. I may, however, mention a rather startling and striking fact, viz., that I was, two years ago, asked by a lady, whose life I had been instrumental in prolonging, “whether I would, as a particular favour, oblige her by vaccinating her infant, as her other two children, previously very healthy and *immaculate*, had, soon after being vaccinated, become covered with red spots, which now and then continued to make their appearance, and to occasion considerable annoyance to them and not less to herself.” I replied, “Although I have for many years ceased to interfere in such matters, I would meet her wishes, and, if possible, select an eligible subject from which to obtain the ichor.” For this purpose I went to a public vaccine station, where there were about forty or fifty children who had been submitted to the process, and from whom I was politely invited to make my selection. But not seeing a single case that I approved, I went again the following week, when I was again kindly permitted to exercise my choice. Out of a somewhat larger number of children, I was only able to select two that presented a tolerably truthful semblance of rela-

tion to the old or former disease, and one of these I subsequently rejected in consequence of my seeing a strumous scar on its sister's neck. The result of my renewed essay was, and has been up to this time, so far satisfactory, that notwithstanding small-pox soon afterwards became prevalent and rife in the village, my little patient escaped infection.

“From what I have here stated you will, I think, readily perceive that my opinion is, that the (modern) vaccine disease, as it is styled, is changed and deteriorated in all its essential attributes, as compared with the original cow-pox, and, in fact, has merged into a means of creating a very serious blood poison, capable, and, it is to be feared, prone to engender numerous and grave ailments. That the time has arrived for a strict scrutiny of the whole question, as affects alike the property of the disease, mode of administration, eligibility, efficiency, propriety, and I would say, justification of its enforcement. That it is a question not of individual caprice, interest, or bias, however induced, but one of the utmost importance, as well as of pressing urgency in a public, indeed national and humane point of view, one in which the whole medical profession should give their independent opinion and earnest aid in determining.

“Not only would the inquiry now solicited by the Marylebone Association at the hands of the Government,—and which, I cannot doubt, would be as graciously conceded as it is respectfully asked,—set at rest the vexed question, but it would, in my belief, at the same time, be certain to lead to the contribution of some most appreciable hints upon this and other exanthematous diseases, and most probably, to the development of some real prophylactic, or moderator at least, of the virulence of small-pox. Variola is said to be a disease occasioned by a specific ferment in the blood. Be this as it may, there can, I conceive, be no question that a deliberate, full, impartial, and unflinching inquiry would go far to allay the ferment in the public mind, and to put an end to serious and sorrowful feuds.

“Yours obediently,

“WM. WEBBER, F.R.C.S.

“To A. J. DAYMAN, Esq.,

“Member of the Marylebone A. C. Vaccination Committee,

“7 Omega Place, N.W.”

7, Omega Place, *October 26th*, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your very valuable letter of the 21st instant, which I do with sincere and heartfelt thanks, on the part of myself and many others, for the favour you have done us. The explicit and impartial way in which you have stated your opinion, and the independent spirit you have evinced in dealing with the question in issue, together with your practical acquaintance with vaccine disease from the beginning, makes us naturally very desirous of having your fuller views upon the subject. But after the trouble you have so kindly taken and the time you have so generously given up to us, I cannot reasonably hope that you will favour us further; anxious as we are to know in what precise respects the present differs from the original disease, as some of my opponents are utterly opposed to vaccination in consequence of the mischief it has done and is still doing. As, however, the momentous question is approaching a critical juncture, a Committee of Inquiry being promised, and all ranks and parties feeling intense interest in the subject, I cannot refrain from saying how desirable it is that a full statement of your valuable views and experience should be published.

If I appeal to you in the name of humanity I do not think I shall be found appealing in vain. Yours gratefully and with every respect,

ALFRED J. DAYMAN.

W. WEBBER, Esq., F.R.C.S., &c.

20, York Place, *November 1*, 1870.

SIR,—I cannot compliment you upon either the spirit shown or the statements made at the meeting by some of the members of your Committee, which I could see were not consonant with *your* feelings, nor with those, as I understand, of some of your colleagues, any more than the statements made were creditable to the speakers emitting them.

As you desire to have a full explanation of my humble views of the question at issue, I cheerfully comply with your request, “trouble” not being a word in my vocabulary, especially where the riddance of a serious social evil demands the aid of each and all.

Having endeavoured to steer clear of any bias or feeling save that of truth and strict impartiality, in setting forth the sincere convictions wrought by my own personal experience and sober thought, I hope the enclosed Summaries and remarks will be entirely satisfactory.

As you published my last letter, you are quite at liberty to do as you please with this, since I never object to what I write or state orally upon public matters being put in print.

You will gather, if you have not already perceived from what I have previously said, that I am not, nor was I cut out for, a courtier, nor to ape the flattery which led Canute to dare the ocean to wet his feet and convict his sycophants; so you must not be surprised, if you find the “*suaviter in modo*” giving place to the “*fortiter in re*.”

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. J. DAYMAN, Esq.

WILLIAM WEBBER.

PRISTINE COW-POX, OR VACCINE DISEASE, AS IT WAS SIXTY YEARS AGO.

ON the FIRST day, that is, a few hours after the insertion of the vaccine ichor, a small blood-stained speck was observable, its size being in accordance with the puncture in the arm, made by the lancet, needle, or instrument used in the performance of the simple, and should be delicate operation,—the effect, however, of which was not uncommonly then, as it is now occasionally, as affecting some, and sometimes all of the punctures (usually two or three in each arm, forming a half-inch equilateral triangle), defeated by the rude, clumsy mode of procedure, occasioning not only unnecessary pain, but copious bleeding, causing attenuation, and frequently a sluicing away entirely of the virus sought to be lodged in, or just under the skin, with a view to its retention and absorption by the lymphatic conductors of it into the systemic circulation.

On the SECOND or THIRD day a diminutive red spot or pimple, slightly elevated, resembling an angry fleabite, was commonly perceptible, not always, as will presently be noted.

On the FOURTH or FIFTH day the pimple was seen enlarged, looking somewhat fierce, and surrounded by a faint areolar blush, varying in limitation from that of a small split pea to the size of a threepenny piece, attended by a slight pruriency.

On the SIXTH day all the foregoing appearances were more or less augmented, and the itching became provocative of digital visitation. But “paws off, Pompey!” was enjoined or provided against, lest the successful progress of the recognised engenderment should have been not merely imperilled, but most probably utterly destroyed, as did sometimes occur, before the absorbents had commenced their imbibition of the generated fluid.

On the SEVENTH day there was a proportionate increase of every feature of the imported ailment. Not only was the circle of inflammation extended, but there was a thickened or infiltrated condition of the integumental tissues as far as the redness reached; indeed, a very remarkable aggravation of all the local concomitants. In addition thereto was felt tenderness of the

inner side of the arm; and upon closer inspection of that surface, in instances of vaccination deferred beyond the period of childhood proper, three or four thready-looking lines, or red subdermal streaks, were seen proceeding from the inchoate vesicle—into which the progressive pimple had merged—towards the armpit, where there was usually a considerable sensitiveness, consequent upon an enlargement of the absorbent glands. Then there was more than a tendency to shivering, sickness, loss of appetite, febricula, and other constitutional indications of a poisonous ferment, of a specific and seriously significant nature, which had seized upon the circulating medium of life's treasury, and was about to assert its sovereignty for a while, "with remainder in tail," to the entire exclusion, possibly, of a like but more calamitous and merciless invader.

The pioneer pimple having at this time assumed all the attributes of a clearly constituted vesicle, became the depository of the secerned or rather excreted virus, referred back again to the point of introduction,—like half-effete or expunged cantharidine to the superficial blister it produced—while the local discomfort and constitutional disturbance were approaching the zenith of the commissioned crusade against variolous warfare.

And on the EIGHTH day the supremacy of the adopted rival of small-pox was usually complete, and the well-defined and fully distended pellucid vesicle—composed of a series of follicular cells, with a slightly tufted central depression,—was seen in majestic prominence enthroned on its roseate and areolar cushion of painful intumescence, comprising a circle of the size more or less of a dollar, lessening in its red intensity and soreness as it verged to its periphery.

THIS was commonly the crowning DAY of vaccine MATURITY, the acme of the lymphatic exanthem, the day on which its fiat of dissemination was ready for issue. Cell after cell being opened by a lancet or grooved needle, according to the supply of lymph required, the freely exuding fluid was at once—as is always desirable—transported to the arm of the candidate for vaccination, and was pretty certain, if the subject were in an amenable state, to exert its specific influence; whether for good or otherwise mainly depended, of course, as it must ever do, upon the

untainted diathesis of each party to the transfer,—the one from whom the ichor is abstracted, and the other into whose system it is sought to be conveyed.

I may here mention that the activity and regularity of development of the instilled disease appeared to be retarded and otherwise influenced by the state of atmosphere, as in crowded towns to wit.

The virus-vanquished recipient, in those days, was to be seen standing with his tender arms apart from his sides, like a scarecrow, or like a young unfledged bird with its mouth wide open and its little wings slightly elevated in token of its hope of getting the worm hanging over the nest, from the beak of the purveying parent.

FROM this DAY the vesicle, whether opened or not, began to point to the end of its pageantry of tenure. On the following—

The NINTH day, the transparency of the exanthem began to exhibit an equivocal appearance; a sickly look ensued, and its decadence commenced in earnest.

On the TENTH day its cuticular or epidermal investment took on a dull semi-opaque aspect, became flattened at the top, the tufted spot—the seat of the original puncture,—became more marked, browner in its hue, and as a consequence of the depression the pock presented a wider base. It also now began to show a pustular change.

On the ELEVENTH day, the features of mortal withering were strikingly shown, and the falling exanthem resembled the ripe seed of the (common) mallow plant. A slight dusky blush, of narrowed circumference, was now all that remained of the inflamed areola.

On the TWELFTH day was seen a perfect pustule, the result, probably, partly of inspissation or coagulation of the incarcerated lymph, and partly of a suppurative process; a natural means of casting off peccant or decayed material, each contributing to exsiccation, and the formation of a scab or incrustation. Whether or no this hypothesis be soundly conceived, the process of decay went on, and, on or about the SIXTEENTH or EIGHTEENTH day the black scab or crust yielded to the scratch of a finger or the friction of garments, and, falling off, left foveal indents of dis-

tinct cells, as regular in their arrangement as those of the exsminated comb of the departing sunflower.

N.B.—The appearances, &c., here described varied in susception, progress, period, and degree or intensity of development, in accordance with the aptitude, diathesis, tone or physical power, or otherwise, of the vaccinatee; in which may be included the influence of latent tendencies, or actions co-existent with or brought into play by the stirring invader.

Hence the necessity that was then enjoined, and great importance, of not only seeing that the patient from whom the ichor was taken was an eligible subject, but also that the proposed recipient was in a fit condition for the transfer.

To the careless, or rather very culpable neglect of such due vigilance and essential precaution, is, in my opinion, mainly attributable the too frequent complaints now preferred of the worse than inefficacy of, the naturally induced contempt for, and opposition to cow-pox as a prophylactic of variola.

That Vaccination proper was for a very considerable period an efficient safeguard against the incursion of small-pox I cannot reasonably doubt. To it I entirely, and I think justly, ascribe the immunity I have, thank God, enjoyed from so dire a disease; surrounded too as I was in 1816,—the first year of my medical life,—by hundreds of cases of small-pox (which was very rife in the town in which I was located,) and exposed, as I have been, to its infection in numerous subsequent instances.

Moreover, I did not escape other eruptive fevers, common, more especially, among the younger members of society.

Truly, indeed, may it be said of the instituted *Morbus*, "*Quantum mutatus ab illo*;" for the present compulsory substitute stands pretty much in scientific relation and practical value to the true vaccine disease or modified small-pox of the world-renowned Jenner, as a preposterous fallacy does to a patent fact, or, the defence of a flannel under-vest, of brilliant aniline hue, does to that of a trusty breastplate of "proved armour."

N.B.—*Written from memory, but will, I think, be found a tolerably accurate description of WHAT VACCINE DISEASE OR COW-POX WAS.*

LONDON, Nov. 1, 1870.

W. WEBBER.

MODERN VACCINATION (?) OR COMPULSORY INOCULATION,

AS COMMONLY PURSUED IN THE PRESENT DAY, AT ALL HAZARDS.

VACCINATION,—as it is now inaccurately designated,—differs, beyond all doubt, very essentially (as well as materially and influentially) in its nature and property, character, attributes, and effects, from the disease (of Jennerian celebrity) of early days. Then, it bore irrefragable and conclusive evidence of a beneficent contribution, indicative of the clear conception and careful ponderings of an enlightened mind, manifestive of providential mediation. Now it resembles a genealogical record, with pedigree omitted; genus lost sight of; and a strange anomaly aping analogy; as though art had forsworn its cunning; care for character had fallen asleep, leaving common sense and humanity in the keeping of short-sightedness; and obligation had gone off duty without leave, but yet receiving payment notwithstanding for work neglected!

In place of the pure, pellucid, Jennerian vesicle is presented an unsightly, dirty-looking pustule, of capricious formation and ill-conditioned appearance. A composite creation, of uncertain elements of engenderment. An *omnium gatherum*, in short, of questionable eliminations from divers constitutions, as capable of occasioning immeasurable mischief as pure vaccine ichor is of bestowing the boon sought to be secured—immunity from Small-pox.

Unfortunately, very readily discernible is the wide and lamentable difference between the legitimate vaccine disease of bygone days, and the modern mongrel of vile extraction and vexatious imposition. The ONE, a happily chosen champion, of prepossessing mien, with distinct features; of noble purpose and consistent character, respective of vital laws; with particular care, discrimination, and vigilance, as *aides-de-camp* in close attendance. The OTHER a beggarly bully; an unseemly bantling, of polluted parentage and bad reputation; wholly indifferent to regular rules, defined law, and order of procedure. A monumental masterpiece, notable of mockery, morbidity, and malpractice, marked by pretentious and specious security. An

agent possessed of objectionable proclivities, put into commission with peremptory authority, and armed with goading and grievous penalties; free of all responsibility; deaf to all remonstrance (be the concomitant circumstances what they may); the step never more critical, hazardous, or ill-advised; the consequences never more obviously mischievous, nor the evil more complicated, and certain of causing general discontent; whether viewed in the open light of privileged birthright, personal independence, highly prized freedom, or of national pride and physical endurance. An imperious practice, rendered as unnecessarily repulsive as it is notoriously unpopular, and as hateful and sickening as forcemeat made of decayed substances and crammed into a sensitive stomach.

It is as difficult to comprehend the difference between the validity of a Life insurance *minus* the due surrender of the authentic policy or binding voucher, as it is to perceive the value and security of a professed prophylactic deprived of its protective quality. But still, not more so, than to discover the propriety and wisdom of compelling parents, fondly proud, and the natural guardians, of their progeny, to submit to the admission into the blood of their children—of comely look, and healthy and robust constitution—of a morbiferous concatenation, a pernicious counterfeit conception, suffered to be bred and born of promiscuous confluences, cradled in the lap of compulsion, allowed to grow up in the nursery of negligence, and to be eventually confirmed by truthful fact,—censurable indifference and culpable mismanagement being the sponsors!

Thus has been all but supplanted, and as seriously shaken, of course, the great and deserved confidence formerly felt in a providential conservation, proved to be—when properly made use of—a trustworthy safeguard against the incursion of a horrible scourge; one commonly as extremely fatal as it is frequently destructive of one or more of the faculties of, and usually dreadfully disfiguring and disadvantageous to those who are permitted to survive its terrible visitation.

Careless inattention and lethargic apathy having neglected the due maintenance of an adequate supply of pure vaccine lymph, and suffered the ichor used to become depraved in

quality and degenerate in property—and assuredly, in many instances, as disgracefully foul as it has been deplorably fruitful of sad discord and great and grievous annoyance in result—it is not surprising that a very strong prejudice, and a rapidly increasing apprehension, amounting to paralyzing terror, of sundry loathsome ailments, of heterogeneous derivation, being imported into the vital pabulum of the systems of the rising generation, should have seized upon the minds of a very considerable section of the community; that people, startled at beholding the previously clear skins of their children covered with spots, betokening a poisoning of their blood by a “leprous distilment” of infectious gatherings, and seeing their heretofore strong constitutions seriously impaired by morbid inserts, enforced by legislative rule; and then, bristling up with honest indignation, and, under such circumstances of gross mismanagement, with just objection, should say, Avast! No more of this.

I would rather submit to any infliction, however trying or ruinous, *or see my child pole-axed*, rather than witness him lying, like Lazarus, at the gate (of corruption?) “full of sores,” dangerous even for “dogs to lick;” or that he should be made a scapegoat for the imposition of sinful surfeits and accumulations, and led captive to a sorrowful existence, with the *forced* brand of the odious lazar-house upon him: showing how his promising future was ingloriously blighted, leaving him a pitiable victim of distasteful compulsion, and, in fact, a sad specimen of degenerate humanity.

“Thorns” do not yield “grapes,” nor “figs thistles;” but certain it is that filthy blood fails not to furnish squalid emanations; that it mars mental development and vigour, and militates against bodily growth and power, thus laying the foundation of weak intellect and degenerate conformation.

Therefore, where the object is to secure fathers and mothers capable of perpetuating a healthy, vigorous, and talented race of sons and daughters, it is obviously essential to avoid a compulsory impediment to so desirable a provision. Moreover, force seldom succeeds in carrying conviction with it.

While it is the weight that tires, it is the pace that kills and damns the sport. So it is the abuse of a specific that annuls its

use and casts discredit upon its efficacy, thereby causing an unjust and mischievous prejudice against it.

If Vaccination *proper* be strictly and judiciously carried out, Small-pox will, I verily believe, cease to be a plague. Common sense will then wake up to calm consideration and temperate judgment; and compulsion will be no longer necessary, as it will then be a matter of choice whether people will let their children DIE of a malignant but preventible disease, or be hideously disfigured, or whether they will suffer them to be PRESERVED by a pure and healthful appliance. But if they recklessly cause their neighbours to be damaged, through their wilful neglect of due precaution, or out of a sinful and senseless disregard to Christian obligation, it is no more than just and right that they should be compelled to make all possible amends either in person or purse.

The wilful placing of a child in the way of danger is to imperil its existence, when it might by due care and precaution be kept preserved from such jeopardy. It comes next to poisoning it, so placing it in the path of a hungry tiger. Cannot the law, under "Sir R. Peel's Act," reach such reckless offenders as parents causing their children to be destroyed by disease? Thus may compulsion be dispensed with.*

But in the present case it is *vice versa*; for the choice is left out, and the payment (of penalty) insisted upon if the (forced) view be not promptly complied with. I own, I, like many others, think the conditions or terms might be reversed, and altogether excused, without the judgment being rendered the weaker.

* There was a time, some thirty years ago, when Mr. *Punch*, sporting a peep-show as an effective mode of illustrating one of his remarkably prophetic foreshadowings, and of drawing "little Master John Bull's" attention, at the moment of an imminent eclipse and portentous crisis, to the awkward position of two distinguished bodies in the political firmament,—the one fading and the other following—(*secundum artem*) with whistle loud and voice shrill, calculated to captivate the curiosity of his customer, exclaimed, "Hear, hear, hear! Here you can see for the charge of one halfpenny two great prime ministers of England, one abolishing of the Corn Laws, the other abolishing of his-self." Master Bull, of short but sturdy stature, clad in short jacket and large trousers, with his hands in his long pockets, with eager eye at the peep-hole, beholding two personages standing apart from each other, asks significantly, "But *which* is the *prime* minister?" "Oh! my little dear," rejoins the wide-awake showman, "you pays your money and you takes your choice!"

"Of the two evils choose the lesser;" *which that is*, deponent saith not; both, being evils, are evil, as certain as that "the good is oft interred with the bones" of those who have done real service. It being not simply desirable, but now an affair of primary moment and pressing urgency, to get back the good and to get rid of the evil, that preservation from premature dissolution may be reinstated, and peace may reign in place of a more than an unwise dissension, and that both sides may perceive the propriety and realize the great necessity of being one and indivisible in promptly dealing with a question of grave bearing, where the danger to life, is imminent, and the door to death, wide open,—I have ventured to give an impartial summary in each instance, descriptive of what *veritable vaccination* WAS and *vitiated vaccination* IS, showing how very undeservedly the former has been brought into disrepute and contempt by the discreditable propagation of the latter. My hope being, as my object is, that, in laying bare the unsound grounds of the *casus belli*, and pointing to the cause of miscarriage or failure of a remedy of such incomparable excellence, when duly attended to; indicating, at the same time, the means by which it is most probable it can be re-established. Its scandalously deposed sovereignty re-enthroned, it may help to put an end to the deplorable and stultifying strife (bordering pretty closely upon criminal contention) and the bitter animosity **that** prevail.

A most inconvenient dispute between frantic faction and intemperate force, intimately allied to a perilous dependence between two stools—a desperate position, as reproachful as it is indisputably solemn in an issue so vital, in which dignified deportment, dispassionate consideration, governed by Christian spirit, and moderation and calm judgment, ought to have exclusive sway.

Unquestionably the subject is one that loudly calls for a thorough, unbiassed, determined, and unflinching investigation, complete rectification, and uncompromising settlement upon just principles and a permanent footing, with a definite and clear understanding. With sagacity and common sense as counsel; the case carefully-heard-out; probity as judge; discrimination, independence, and fair play in the jury-box; the verdict will be safe

to be, an equitable one ; although it is not improbable that it would not be one entirely in accordance with the views of restless spirits, who are as hard to please and pacify as they have been prone to be factious and discontented, and, as a race, will most likely continue to be throughout all time, but not always, (it is but fair to admit), without a salutary effect being achieved ; for truth is made the more apparent by opposition.

The *questio vexata* thus righteously settled, (fanatic) clamour will have no just cause to complain of a want of conciliatory concession, nor (factious) outcry to raise its voice against the earnest and humane efforts made by the Executive to promote the welfare of the Community.

Following up therefore the opinion I entertain of the *essential* good which, I verily believe, the *genuine* cox-pox is capable of conferring, and actuated solely by a sincere desire to remove the bone of contention, and to avert the evil consequences arising out of the abuse of so signally useful a discovery of scientific inquiry, as vaccine disease was proved to be,—as long as its purity was preserved,—I hold it to be not only absolutely necessary that *frequent recurrence* be had to the *original source* of supply, but expedient that legislative enactment should at once step forward and provide a well-appointed establishment in which a succession of heifers could be kept up for the purpose referred to.

A good opportunity of keeping alive the disease, which has become rare among cows, is now offered by the unfortunate prevalence of small-pox in our own species. Great care, of course, should be taken in transferring the disease to the bovine, to select such patients only that present the full and well-marked features of true idiopathic formation, and, in extracting the ichor from the quadruped (if such mode or regeneration be deemed advisable), to see that the disease so engendered possesses equally well-defined characteristic indications, and further, that it be abstracted at the time of its maturity.

Such an establishment might be appended to small-pox hospitals. The blankets taken from the beds of patients could be then at once thrown over and secured upon the animals till they became infected,—when, if the desired result should not follow in a few days, inoculation could be employed, although I consider it

infinitely more preferable that it should be conveyed naturally to the heifer by the contagious operation of the specific fomites.

The heifer could be safely removed, as soon as the disease is evidently set up in her system, to some convenient locality—easy of access to medical men,—as infection is not conveyed by the quadruped in the way that it is by mankind.

It is surely of the utmost importance that there should be permanent founts, conveniently situate, where a replenishment of pure vaccine lymph could be readily obtained, that a repetition may be avoided of the evil arising out of the too frequent employment of matter that has passed through all sorts of constitutions, licking up, like the collective snowball, all the filth coming in the way of its revolutionary course.

But is it not within the pale of possibility to further utilize the opportunity alluded to, by making it available to an attempt (holding out a feasible prospect of success) to create a *new mode* of rendering the fearful malady one of a harmless, indeed,⁹ of an unobjectionable (may be desirable) nature?—by inoculation with an admixture of variolous matter with the pus of tar-pleuk, or some similar diluent of counteractive or moderative power of natural formation, or of chemical contrivance, by which means the prophylactic property of the hybridous (Jennerian) substitute, in case of its dying out from any cause whatsoever, may be worthily represented.

Even milk used as an attenuant of the matter inserted in the days of small-pox inoculation was known to lessen, in a great degree, the severity of the disease.

I make more particular mention of tar-pleuk as a diluent, because I learnt during my investigation of the cause and nature of Dye-poisoning—occasioned by wearing under garments, socks, stockings, gloves, &c., coloured by aniline dyes, which I first detected and made known about two years and a half ago—that persons employed in tar works (extensively carried on in the north) become obnoxious to a disease called “the Pleuk,” and who, after having so suffered, are very seldom assailed by SMALL-POX. Be this as it may, I should select the pleuk pus—in the absence of satisfactory experience—more from the fact of its parent being a well-known antiseptic, than as endowed *per se* with a prophylactic attribute.

I have, however, reason to think that there are several other means that might be successfully adopted, as I have more than once hinted in influential and exalted quarters,*—an intimation, met by a gracious smile, and entertained with the “full consideration” of indifference *cum multis aliis!* “*Sic gloria*” (*aut tempus aut vita*) “*transit mundi.*” Yes! *sic*-kening enough, when labour, time, and trouble zealously bestowed, at no small sacrifice of purse too, for the sole sake of the public weal, get unceremoniously pushed aside, and looked upon as out of place, because not “in place,” nor possessed of the power and help of a “friend at court.”

Thus—to use the words, uttered if I remember rightly, by the late sagacious and foreseeing Lord Melbourne, when speaking in his place as premier, upon a somewhat vital question—“a heavy blow and great discouragement” are given to public spirit and patriotic effort.

* It is now more than seven years since that I, observing the stealthy move by which the dreadful pest was gradually regaining its former devastating rule (while vigilance was reposing in the lap of negligence, and Cerberus, lying with eyes closed—I do not mean by *veteris Bacchi pinguisque ferinæ*, but simply shut—to its significant march, countenanced by partisans favouring its return), first hinted my notions to the chief medical officer of Her Majesty’s Privy Council, respecting the means by which a modification of its fearfully formidable nature at least might, I had reason to think, be accomplished.

Again, about twenty months ago, I reverted to my views, in consequence of some remarkable incidents arising out of “dye disease,” which I had been instrumental in bringing to the notice of “my Lords” of the aforesaid Council; but which, from some cause or other, being shelved—that is, *in statu quo*,—continues to be a feature of distributive merchandise, unchecked by authoritative interference in *this* country, despite the prohibitory provisions in “The Sale of Poisons Act.”

It is true several actions for considerable amounts have been brought, for the serious damage occasioned to person and purse, and been met by compensation and payment of costs, rather than that the facts should be published in open court! So the evil, as a matter of course, goes on, notwithstanding the intimations which from time to time appear in the public press; and unsuspecting purchasers find out to their cost, that, as in the honey-bee, so in tempting “vain attire there lurks a sting,” as ladies and gentlemen, our military and naval defenders, of all grades, can testify; as also gentlemen in Government offices, who, when thus rendered *hors de combat*, find the support of the public purse very comforting. But in this, as in vaccination, the public are permitted the privilege of enduring a *casus mali* which a due and proper investigation would remedy.

'*Apropos*, as respects vaccination, it seems to me that a Board of Inquiry, composed of veteran practitioners of known capability, not excluding observant, experienced, and painstaking provincials, would be found quite "strong enough for the place," and adequate, if legally empowered, to settle the question satisfactorily. I mean as far as the large reasonably disposed majority of the public is concerned. Of course I do not include those who are determined to fan prejudice and to perpetuate hostility, be the evident consequences as cruelly destructive as possible. They, like "Ephraim joined unto idols," are better "let alone," and left to revel in the full fruition of their freely vented vituperative denunciations, and bountifully bestowed anathemas, in which weakness of argument is much more distinguishable than sober sense or solid reason. If strong arguments, couched in temperate language, had been brought forward, in place of the personal and impassioned feeling which has been unsparingly exhibited, they would unquestionably have commanded much more attention than such uncalled-for and unwise philippics can lay claim to or expect.

Formerly, when *vivâ voce* discussion was a prominent feature in university examinations, yclept wrangling, hence "wranglers,"—now making no noise, save when their highly honourable success is proclaimed, rendering them just objects of commendation—it is said that "a countryman had a mind to go in and hear what was going on," and that one of the cognoscenti seeing him sitting and apparently vacantly listening to what he could not comprehend, remarked to him that it could not be very interesting to him to hear subjects discussed that he was not acquainted with; when, with pertinent shrewdness, the countryman naïvely replied, "No, but I can see who first gets into a passion." So some people, following in the wake of prejudices and blind pursuit, vehemently outcry against a sound principle and a provident practice; condemning others for upholding what they clearly do not understand, or are wilfully determined not to see the value of.

As regards medical dissentients, I trust I shall not be misunderstood when I unhesitatingly assert, that few are those who have not been in practice at least thirty years that have ever

had a chance of seeing the true vaccine disease, and are therefore scarcely competent to give an opinion, beyond the deductions at which they arrived from what they have heard of its early history, and the results they have seen obtained from the modern makeshift, so different in type and quality from primeval vaccination. I make no apology, because I intend no offence; and those who take umbrage at what I have thus honestly declared, and shrug up their shoulders in token of displeasure, might as justly impute to me an egotistic desire to reproach them, for not having seen objects, that had passed into oblivion before they were born.

As respects certain LAY objectors to vaccination, they seem to have come to a conclusion upon a one-sided view of the subject, based, too, upon narrow grounds (the real point having, as I have said, been blinked on both sides). This is not unusual in questions of a popular character, when parties exhibit more indignation and acrimony than is wholesome in a matter pregnant with a most momentous problem, which it is hoped may in the end be satisfactorily resolved, and not rendered abortive of the lasting settlement of a not less vital trial of right, on which hang security of health, social harmony, and constitutional vigour.

Moreover, the LAITY, looking perhaps upon the case as one of misconception, and acting under the influence or impression of delusion—rest it where and with whom it may—and being naturally strongly opposed (and justifiably so in the present instance) to the *nolens volens* fiat and force of arbitrary rule—out of place where serious and indisputably qualified doubt, conscientious scruple, personal safety, and sacred right are involved—it surely cannot reasonably be denied that they are justly and fully entitled to a voice and choice in a matter of such great concern to those living (trustees, too, as they are in their turn acting for those to come after them, as well as for those now born), and to a full opportunity of declaring, uninfluenced by any other incentive than an honest conviction and a stern sense of duty, “Content,” or “Not content, upon my honour.” If those clothed in ermine (and, “thank God, we have yet a House of Lords;” long may it remain, and happy, as useful, may it be) who, firm in their belief, and as free as

they are fearless in their confession of what is righteous and just, have a right to speak out, why should not those similarly impressed, and as sincerely and consistently guided, although not clothed in costly attire of "soft raiment," be equally free to give a reason of the faith that is in them, instead of being penalized for purging their conscience, which warreth against their souls, when they consent to acts and deeds which in their hearts they feel to be perilous to the bodies of their children?

The real point in the debate is, as it appears to me, whether or not vaccination *common* be prophylactic of small-pox, and, as that pseudo-disease of the present day differs widely from the original or genuine cow-pox—standing in relation to each other as shadow does to substance,—it (the *former*) is worthy to be trusted to, and if not (for "there's the rub"), it ought to be imperatively insisted upon; a point which cannot be fairly determined till it can be ascertained on which side is the preponderance of evidence, the force of fact.

Can it be gainsayed that *prior* to the introduction of *cow-pox* the mortality from small-pox more than decimated the population of broad Europe? That from the moment it (vaccination *proper*) came into operation, the death rate of variola began to diminish, till it (the cow-pox) became well-nigh the death-bell of departed small-pox? To what then, if not to vaccine disease, is attributable the incontrovertible diminution of a plague as destructive and as harassing and distressing as those visited upon the Egyptians because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart; and, as I had almost said in the case in question, which destroying visitor, by reason of the wilful confusion and neglect in certain quarters, has gradually headed up again?

It has been openly alleged, but, as I have said, by no means clearly proved, that not only have several persons died from small-pox after vaccination, but several also from vaccination itself. I can only say I have never seen nor heard of any well-authenticated case of death *directly* occasioned by vaccination *proper*. Of course people can die afterwards of what they could not before the stated cause occurred; but that does not necessarily prove the subsequent death, take place when it might, to have been the real effect of the alleged cause, any more than

that a finger cut by a disobedient child playing with a forbidden knife is the cause of death in after years, because the nurse, to deter it from a repetition of wilful neglect of caution, tells it that "it will be sure to die after it," the threat being as innocent of the evil caused as the cut. I am, on the other hand, ready to admit that I have seen several, and have heard of many more cases, in which the disastrous results pointed very suspiciously to vaccination *common* as the parent of them; it of course was not easy to establish the fact, any more than it is to diagnose to a certainty all that is going on in a person's abdomen, chest, or head.

As to "several," too, "dying of small-pox after vaccination," what is the worth of such a narrow statement compared with the broad fact in dispute? How does it establish that which is so anxiously endeavoured to be shown, seeing, as is well known, that, as a rule, a person is not amenable to the infection, especially of zymotic diseases, at a moment when the system happens to be preoccupied by a like (repellent) influence, a fact to which the perennial Shakspeare was evidently alive? Thus it is that vaccination performed under such circumstance may fail, and small-pox, when the system is free and susceptible, may afterwards take possession of it.

But can that be solemnly said to be the fault of or a proof of the inefficiency of vaccination *proper*? I certainly do not deny that it does, however, partake of a great desire to establish a view as transparent as the veil thrown over the object in which there is apparently a clear indication of something more than unsophisticated design.

I have known several cases in which ulcers in the mouths of some children, who had feasted freely on sweets chemically coloured, saved them harmless for the time being from the measles and scarlet fever prevalent among their playmates, who afterwards, upon the occurrence of a similar outbreak, shared in that, which had been merely staved off, for a while, by such prepossession. Many indeed are the like causes of deferred susceptibility that I have observed.

It has also fallen to my notice, as I know it has done to that of other medical practitioners, to see cases in which vaccination performed (just at the nick when the germ or bud of small-pox

was about to sprout forth), run its course, followed by the latter, so kept in abeyance, as soon as its forerunner, quicker on its legs, out of deference to which it had held back, had moved out of the way, not without testifying, however, that "the first hit-home blow was half the battle." Such may of course, and probably has been recorded, and could not be disputed, as a case of "small-pox after vaccination." Yes! not done in time to prevent the inceptive invasion, but happily in time to despoil, most probably, the outrun rival of his prey!

It must be borne in mind that all I positively affirm in these pages is the evidence and conviction of personal experience only, which should alone be the evidence tendered or received where the aim is to get at "the truth, the whole truth, and *nothing* but the *truth*." As counsel say, "Don't tell us what others say, but only what you can speak to of your own knowledge; for remember, you are on your oath,"—as all should be when more particularly a vital question is at stake, whether the testimony be voluntarily tendered as a duty, or demanded as a legal obligation.

But does not the admission of only *several* (a term expressive of more than one, but not positively many) having died after vaccination (whether proximately or remotely is not stated), even if true, go to show a most signal advantage of vaccine over variolous disease, when taking into account the myriads, who, prior to the adoption of the Jennerian discovery, died of small-pox?

It is said, "Every little is a help;" but it may not be of more advantage than a "straw to a drowning man." But it is not so very uncommon for complainants to put themselves "out of court," when, in their anxiety to establish the "main count," they,—losing sight of figures,—“prove too much.”

Next it is alleged that VACCINATION (*common* of course) dies out every seven years, like a septennial lease, absolutely determinable, when, from fluxion of time, it has run out, because somehow or other the common clause of option of continuance was, as is often common sense, left out; and hence the conclusion I suppose, of its not being a safeguard beyond such period. If only so, is that nothing, even as an admission?

It being so many years since I was Jennerized, I cannot but hope that there is no more reason than I can conceive of their

being, beyond mere imagination or possibly an eye to business, for such conjecture, for so I must regard the gratuitous suggestions. Nor shall I be more disposed to believe in it, till some sensible, I mean sound proof is adduced to support such a naked hypothesis, than I should be to go to the parish register to get my birthday post-dated in order to make myself appear younger, and that too in the face of visible age staring me out of countenance !

It is very rarely that persons suffer more than once in their lives from any of the more dangerous forms of exanthematous disease, or indeed of other infectious seizures ; although I have witnessed several instances of scarlet fever, measles, and even small-pox, as secondary occurrences, whether from *twin* GERMS of *different ages*, like the Irishman's *boys*, I know not ; but I do not see why diseases should (*if they do*) recur every seven years, any more than I do, why the EXCEPTION should be made the RULE. In my early days I attended one, and saw another case in which the child was born with small-pox, the mothers who had both being vaccinated, having escaped with no other inconvenience than feeling a little poorly from the effluvium by which they each happened to be surrounded, both being in terribly infected dwellings,—a very significant fact.

What proof is there of the assumed fact or the necessity for repeated vaccination beyond the factitious statement which has been set forth ? Surely such is very unsafe ground to rest upon.

AS TO RECURRENT VACCINATION.

“ When you do not know what to do, don't do anything, and then you will do no harm ; and mind and see that you have a *good reason* for what you do.”

JOHN ABERNETHY.

To RE-VACCINATE is to run the imminent risk of stirring up dormant or fresh ferments in the blood, which, while hazarding the chance of importing foul and noxious matters into the system, upsetting good health—generally a good conservator—and thereby rendering the constitution amenable to attack, may also illustrate the folly of “ not letting well alone.” Where, too, the *well*-marked cicatrix or cicatrices on the arm manifest evidence of primary vaccination having been successful ! It is in that way,

I believe, that many serious cases to which I can bear testimony, and a large number of an equally severe nature that have come to my knowledge, have been invoked ; and it may be, as asseverated, several fatal results have been occasioned.

RE-VACCINATION then, for the reasons I have stated, I hold to be undesirable, and further, a very injudicious move, as by upsetting the "*vis medicatrix naturæ*," it may open the door to the epidemic. "Enough is as good as a feast," and better than "having too much of a good thing,"—Christmas to wit, when some people, witless of what they are doing, take in "too much victuals and drink," and "are found aback."

Touching the "going back to the cow once in every *ten* years," because of the thus admitted degeneracy of the material used, is to grant a long armistice, for the repetition of the evil, which has already too heavily obtained, from a want of more frequent recurrence to the *only source* to be RELIED *upon* ; but *not*, as I have already said, by *inoculating* the UDDER, which may not pay more serviceable heed to such a puncture from a lancet, or the more preferable grooved needle or abraded surface, charged or besmeared with variolous matter, than it is disposed to do generally to the scratch of a rusty nail, or the like offence, beyond festering. It obviously, as a returned product, cannot be so certain or likely to bring about the desired effect as when it has been eliminated first hand, as it were, from the bovine's system in the natural way that I have recommended.

It is possible, too, that at no very distant date it may be found a more eligible expedient, in order to be quite on the safe side, to meet the adversary on his own grounds ; and—when shaking him by the hand, to give him such a hearty squeeze as shall paralyze his power to hit home with his heavy paw—to inoculate with modified variolous matter, and thus coax him into peace, rather than suffer him to enter upon our territory and drive us into death. Besides, it may so happen that we may not always be able to obtain a sufficient supply of vaccine ichor, when it may be most wanted. I, however, do not see why we should confine ourselves to the COW ; SHEEP, (equally clean feeding animals), being as obnoxious to small-pox, as I have seen ; and, as shepherds in many counties can abundantly testify. The sheep

pays a heavy penalty very often; the cow, being a far stronger constitutioned animal apparently, suffers but little more from such seizure than three or four days' discomfort. They, however, become thirsty, indisposed to take much food, and have other febrile indications. The milk becomes scanty and pinky-looking, the result probably of defective secretion, in consequence of the colative and eliminative function of the gland or udder being interrupted, the VEINS and *not* the *arteries* are the main and immediate contributors of secretions, as I very many years ago ventured to assert, still affirm, and have irrefragably proved. Hence it is that *purulents* getting into the veins create such serious results. I must not pursue this subject further, or I shall have the physiological police after me, as a vagrant wandering out of bounds; but I shall have another word to say about cows and cattle plague, which will be more acceptable to the *Germists* than some other remarks I feel myself constrained to mention, in deference to the impartial and midway course to which I have desired and have endeavoured to keep.

I fancy I hear Homœopaths exultingly exclaiming, "Aye there now! what is this proposition as to small-pox? Is it not taking a big bit out of our books—adopting our motto, "*similia similibus curantur*"—and a flagrant purloining of our principles?" Can there be a doubt of it? Yes! seeing that to lay claim to ONE thing, is, to show the right to what some people take—sometimes by mistake possibly, or otherwise—and call their own is, ANOTHER thing; and not far off being akin to a lady's stealing a kiss from her affianced, and then slyly saying, "What's yours is mine and what's mine is my own."

As to the "like being cured by the like," long before Hahnemann was born medical men were in the habit of meeting internal inflammations by putting blisters upon the external surface, as a means of curing what they could not otherwise conveniently get at or control, but were thereby able often to subdue, when judiciously and opportunely applied. Of course I do not speak of inflamed joints, where the mischief is generally quite enough without its being superadded to by the application of a blister *directly over* instead of *apart* from them. Whether the plan I propound be strictly homœopathic or not is immaterial to the scheme.

Not that I see why homœopathic practices should be decried simply because I, like a vast majority of others, have not been brought up in them, and have therefore no more right to condemn them than they have to speak disparagingly of Allopaths, as they are not backward in doing, as though they felt weak themselves, and got something strengthening by pointing to their mote-like perception of a *similar* want of power in their kinsfolk. It is not for interested parties "to judge others lest they be judged." If the Undertaker were interrogated as to which was the more successful, he might possibly answer, "Why, really, to speak impartially, I should say, which I do very gratefully, '*Arcades ambo*,' both put pretty large heaps in *my path* to clear away, so that my man 'Sexton' has always plenty to do." Therefore, let us be more liberal; judge justly of each other, without assigning other than an honest motive to both, and not make our differences paramount to a due regard to the interests committed to our trust. It would be much more creditable, and not so opposed to the benefit of both, and undoubtedly far more conducive to the (should be) main principle of our calling.

It is very black-looking of the black kettle to call the black boiler "black Betty," and *vice versâ*. Let medical men be frank, fearlessly open, weighing opinions with each other earnestly for the benefit of their patients, (they will find they will not *lose* anything by it), and Charlatanry would be found in the cemetery in place of the many dupes sent there by it.

Having already gone far beyond the limits to which I had intended to confine myself, I will only further add a few general remarks.

First, as to the means of preventing the spread of small-pox by localizing it. I would suggest that a National Hospital in connection with the *Vaccine* Institution at present existing should be erected in some open, airy, and isolated space, surrounded by a sufficiently remote cordon. The hospital to contain apartments with appliances suited for all classes, none excepted, and to be at least a third of a mile distant from any dwelling. Branch hospitals, similarly constructed and appointed, to be provided in the vicinity of every large town of not less than 7,000 inhabitants. To these institutions every person affected with

small-pox, capable of being removed, should be compelled to go, or to erect a pest-house on his own estate, under statutory regulations, for the use of his own household, and, if he be so minded, for the reception of any of his neighbours. I apprehend there are but very few people rightly and unselfishly disposed, who, under the circumstances of such a visitation, would desire to remain as focuses for the radiation of so terrible a malady.

Not only could they each have the advantage of skilful treatment; good nursing, privacy, quiet, and everything essential to their restoration; but those who (availing themselves, as all wise people, it is presumed, will do, of such advantages) can afford to contribute towards the funds, (and who would not be ready and happy to do so that could?) might thereby render the expenses of such provision far more light to the public purse, and thus render the institution in a great measure self-supporting. The medical attendants appointed to such institutions, if not exclusively employed there, could be habited during the time of their attendance in garments rendering them free from the conveyance of infection. These, and many other expedients that I have not time now to go further into, could without difficulty be carried out. It is not necessary that rooms should be large to be airy, if properly constructed. I have often thought that our large hospitals would be much more conducive to their object if the wards were less capacious; I mean more divided. The piercing cries of personal suffering are not calculated to cheer, any more than exposure, &c., &c., are to promote moral feeling.

Carriages should be suitably constructed, and used exclusively for the conveyance of patients to the hospitals, under proper regulations.

I would also advise—and this could be done without any great injury to vested interests—that all clothes or bedding, and articles that can convey infection, should be depurated, as far as can be done, on the spot, and rooms be thoroughly fumigated before such articles are allowed to be taken away; and then only in special conveyances and wraps, and at *no other* time than *midnight*, to the small-pox laundry, to be completely deprived of all chance of infection. Once such an hospital and

system were set on foot (and I know of no better way in which the public purse could be used), there would be sure to be an abundance of hints flow in, that would be pretty certain to make such an Institution one of great national honour, with machinery adequate to sustain its credit. It is in vain to attempt to entirely stamp out small-pox without such provision. The common plan of whitewashing walls as a means of cleansing and purifying them, is a mistake. The fomites, or germs of infection, are thereby shut up and rendered dormant for a while, till the whitening scales off, but are not destroyed. Carbolic acid, sulphurous acid gas, and chlorine, as fumigants or washes, are the only agents I trust to. I have known fomites lay dormant for years, and then to become developed in full force and malignancy.

After the entrance of the Allies into Paris, in the memorable year 1815, many of our soldiers caught and died of small-pox. Their uniforms were packed up and sent back to be lodged in different depôts, where they remained stored for some time. Affairs having come to a peaceful end, the clothings were advertised for sale, after the lapse of about two years. A shoemaker in a central town in Suffolk, bent upon "turning an honest penny," the opportunity being very promising of prosperity, invested somewhat largely as to quantity, the cost being very moderate, little dreaming of the mute agent of death concealed in his luckless bargain. As soon as he had housed the essentials to the *new stitch* he was about to try, he set his beautiful daughters, of whom he had four (if I remember), "fair to look upon," to unfold the garments (which were "*free from moth*," a remarkable fact—"how lucky, too!" said poor Crispin), and to disintegrate them, prior to converting the pieces into habiliments for microcosms of small stature growing up in life, but who were fortunately preserved from death by the clothes being all ordered to be burnt, in consequence of small-pox lurking in them, having seized upon his fine girls, destroying two, and disfiguring the others most frightfully. Although every precaution was most promptly taken to prevent the mischief going further, by the medical gentleman (of revered memory, with whom it was my good fortune to be placed), the disease, of a

most fatal type, spread in every direction far and near; and thus it was that I, who had been vaccinated about eight years, was in the thick of the battle for some time; vaccinating right and left, under the guidance of my very skilful and esteemed tutor, people who had either through thoughtlessness or prejudice neglected (as people do when all is quiet) to avail themselves of the remedy they were then glad to fly to. But a great many succumbed to the virulent outbreak before they could get vaccinated, although several insisted upon having the chance when they were full of variolous eruption. As many as there was accommodation for were sent to the pest house,—a quarter of a mile apart from,—belonging to, the Union house; no class objecting, but most of the transferred being anxious to go. In about a year and a half the disease was thus got rid of in that neighbourhood, which remained free from small-pox for a great many years.

Such an Institution, for which I am an advocate, would afford an opportunity to those who may be averse even to vaccination *proper* (which few, I think, will be, when it is restored to the rule of which vaccination *common* has deprived it), of being inoculated with varioloid, or modified small-pox matter. A room could, *if necessary*, be set apart for them.

I know not what may be the entire treatment now generally adopted at the small-pox hospitals. I have seen many cases in which puncturing the pustules (a very old plan), when they were nearly or fully formed, was of great service, both in preventing pits and scars, and the absorption of the pus, which, returning into the system, aggravated the mischief. By using a small fine-pointed syringe to abstract the pus after puncturing the pocks, then brushing each with a camel's hair pencil dipped in a solution of carbolic acid or dilute sulphurous acid, afterwards dusting over them a little calamine powder, would be equal to the accomplishment of what I have above alluded to.

Much has been said about the grease in horses being so closely allied to small-pox, that it is capable of producing a similar effect in the cow, and that Jenner looked upon it as next to identical with cow-pox. Whether so viewed or employed or not by him, I am not able to say; but, if I mistake not, I

have somewhere seen that he so far repudiated its similarity and equal efficacy, that “he *never* depended upon it.” That it has been freely used as an argument by opponents to vaccination, to disgust and deter people from adopting the latter, there is *no* doubt. That the “grease” is capable of producing a pustule—as is pus taken from a putrid sore of any kind—there is no question; but that does not determine the nature of it, any more than it shows the quality or property to be the same in point of effect. But it may, upon the principle I have before explained, for a while keep similar engenderments in check.

Some other opponents, taking advantage of the door thus opened by the greasy idea, have laboured very zealously and ingeniously to make out that the small-pox rife in Paris during the siege of that city, was principally attributable to the adopting horseflesh, which they had left, in place of beef, of which they had but little left. An argument that might have been kept up if it had not slipped through from the fact, that the small-pox had been very prevalent before the hippophagists had come to such shifts. A few words more about cows, favourable to the germists (and happily for the reader, if he have had patience enough to get thus far), and I have done with the *kine*.

During the reign of the cattle plague of 1865, in inquiring into the nature and cause of which I spent much time, with no small cost of health and purse, not, however, without discovering and pointing out *three* or *four* novel and significant features in the ailment, as my essay showed,—but *which* were afterwards placed to the credit of those who had, as I subsequently learnt, done me the honour to read and borrow freely from my book!—I ascertained that those cows (of which I saw several) that had the small-pox, escaped the murrain, although they were in juxtaposition with others to which it proved fatal. Had inoculation in place of vaccination been practised upon them it might have destroyed the murrain *germ*.

When I was at Harrogate, about two years and a half since, I observed the cows grazing on the low pasture (very like a bog, where the far-famed springs are situate), going to the wells from which the Bath purveyors were drawing the different waters, (differing very much from each other in composition, although in

many instances they are only a few feet apart), for drink, which they could only obtain when the men were there with their pails. Upon my expressing my surprise at seeing the animals jostling each other in order to get the water most strongly flavoured of rotten eggs ("the sulphuretted hydrogen well") the men told me "the cows would leave any water for that." The milk was remarkably sweet and rich, without the slightest taste in it of "their favourite tipple."

These cows, as also some others in the adjoining pastures, escaped the cattle plague—although others, nearly all, in the immediate neighbourhood that is, not more than half a mile away, I was told, died, the people not being aware of the prophylactic so near at hand. Nor should I have made such inquiry into the fact, but from my knowledge of the great value of sulphurous acid, as an antiseptic, disinfectant, and formidable opponent to fomite existence. This, with some other equally useful agents which have since occurred to me, lead me to believe as I have elsewhere stated, that cattle plague is curable.

I have grounds too for believing that each specific form of zymotic disease is due to a gas of a peculiar kind determinate of its nature, and opportune to its development. Hence the necessity for increased vigilance and incessant sanitary supervision, and indeed for imperative and efficient fumigation and the daily use of decomposing and deodorizing agents.

Sewers in particular should be most scrutinously looked after. Police so employed might not only detect, but, by their uncertain visits, (most certainly requisite and which ought to be daily recorded as to the time of their visitation and the result) prevent criminal practices and the facilities of disposing of destroyed infantile life.

I could point out many evils under this head that might by systematic arrangement and strict management be got rid of. But the less I say about sewers and drains, and the immense amount of mischief arising from them, the better, lest my head should be broken as were my windows and the health of my family, unoffending (save by their kind acts), some eight years ago, by authority, my original letter addressed to the then Home Secretary (therefore a State document), having been put

into the hands of "an unjust steward," because I was imprudent enough,—in the exercise of divine law, and the imperative obligations attached to my calling—to lose sight of self-interest, and to try to prevent the occurrence of diseases by the treatment of which medical men live—a paradoxical position.

But God forgive, as I do most heartily, the misguided miscreants and those, more culpable, that backed them in their brutal assault and cowardly attack upon me and mine. In their outrageous behaviour they discovered themselves to be as shortsighted as they were reckless of the prosperity of their formerly much frequented and deservedly popular town, and far-famed wells, with more of iron in their composite waters, than there is, it would seem, of true Christian spirit and feeling in those who professing a reverence for such attributes, mistake the way of practising them.

It is more consonant with my feeling and disposition, and would be much more pleasing to me to do anything in my power to serve the town, than to be reminded in future of what will, as far as I am concerned, pass into oblivion, and give place to a permanent *bridge* over "the waters of strife"—*in æternum*.

Ere I conclude my observations as to the charges of death laid at the door of vaccination, I feel I ought in common fairness and justice to all parties to mention—particularly as regarding the gentleman accused at the meeting spoken of in the preface, of smothering very grave facts—a charge not altogether denied, thereby giving a colour to it, while *pro tanto* justifying the accusers—that "a child was killed, positively murdered, as have many others by vaccination" (which if so must indeed be a formidable operation), was declared by the solemn verdict of a jury, to have "*died from vaccination*"—a verdict which the coroner, by whose authority or connivance was not stated, altered into "*death by misadventure*."

Having now disposed of deaths occurring from vaccination, *common* at least as so stated, I leave you to infer which way I am prepared to give my vote, which, when the matter comes to that, I shall unflinchingly and honestly record.

Nov. 1st, 1870.

W. W.

POSTSCRIPTUM.

SINCE the foregoing pages were written, which I have assented to being published as desired, some fresh statements and incidents have come under my observation which I notice, lest it should seem that I acquiesced in them.

It is gravely asserted by the friends, I mean the advocates, of small-pox, that it is a blessing! That it destroys (eats up) the germs of other serious diseases spoken of as latent in the systems of mankind, though not seen save through the eye-glass of supposition, nor proved beyond the *fact of mere conjecture*. It may serve to account for the greater (lesser so asseverated) fatality consequent upon the prevalence of small-pox, seeing that it luxuriously feasts upon the seeds of mortality! and hence destroys more than all the other diseases springing (or which would, as the case may be, do so) from the skulking germs thereof put together; just as horses fed—as is the custom in some parts of South America—on the offal of other beasts, their own class not excepted, become more vicious and unmanageable. But as the said “germs do not always and altogether exist,” as declared by the assumed (germ-innate) possessors of “knowledge too wonderful to be attained unto” by people not possessing “a key to” or “list of contents,” and not gifted with the faculty or art of beholding what is not to be seen; it will not be more easy to establish such a theory, than it would be to show how the infusorial generators of the different “forms divine” manage to make out among so many germs the abode of their respective mates!

It has further been seriously said that “it is a sinful violation of God’s laws to attempt to frustrate the march or to throw impediments in the path of small-pox,” that “it is a direct violation of Divine decree”—a doctrine which seems to savour more strongly of impious presumption, sinister and senseless rendering, than of an humble reading of sacred writ; a consenting to a thief; a bowing to in place of bearing up against trials imposed upon humankind for their future welfare; a burying of talent (or

effort) in a napkin in place of employing it in a way to bring glory to God for the wonders He doeth for the children of men. The good Samaritan was held to have been neighbour unto him who fell among thieves, when, instead of, with Levite indifference, abandoning the poor sufferer to his fate, he poured oil and wine into his wounds to prevent them festering, of which he might otherwise have died. A practice which, like that of putting preservative vaccine into the blood of children, offers a far better chance of preventing the mischief which forcing pestilent pus into their constitutions is pretty certain to cause.

I cannot but look upon such an argument, other than in reality, charging a merciful God with having idly created man in His own image simply for the purpose of destroying him, as malevolently disposed persons manufacture effigies with the object of bringing into the most ineffable contempt a neighbour whose honest status they are bent upon demolishing, and then smashing or burning their own recreant similitude in token of their (*ig*) noble spirit and ostrich-like boldness and head-hidden courage! To speak of "a God of mercy" and "of love," and then to try to make out that He is a merciless Father, hating those whom He has made, is a strange and incomprehensible mode of showing a *true* belief in what He has "caused to be written for our learning."

Then again, we find some anti-vaccinists running a tilt against their own arguments (not an uncommon occurrence where hasty prejudice and persistent absurdity usurp the place of sober reason and sound judgment), quoting, "God is not mocked," "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." Just so, no doubt, and they too will most likely find that the harvest will be to those who work in full faith, that "as the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath, so it is lawful to heal," "even to vaccinate on the Sabbath day."

I find my feelings have betrayed and led me into polemical matters belonging more exclusively to the pulpit, where the interpretations of Divine law and scriptural significances are better understood, and can be more ably and profitably handled.

Before I conclude my observations on this head, I cannot but express my earnest hope that it may please God, whose finger

is discernible in this as in all things, to send more labourers (able and zealous and as peaceably disposed) into the harvest, that, labouring more abundantly, we may eventually get rid of the tares of small-pox by *preventing* their springing up.

This, the *best* cure, is not to be accomplished by sowing the evil broadcast, nor by allowing "wild grapes" (as alluring and poisonous as the tempting berries of the deadly nightshade) "brought forth" of tainted stock, in place of the good fruit produced by the true mediative vaccine vine, which has been well-nigh withered up, through its roots having been all but destroyed by the neglect of proper culture, and the use of mixed confluxes of a cankerous nature sapping its vitality.

I cannot, nor will I withhold the declaration: that within the last few weeks when all people seem to have gone mad, in respect of and rushed into re-vaccination, without consideration (or as my late much esteemed friend, and tutor, "JOHN ABERNETHY" would say, "without having any reason for what they are doing"), heedless of consequences, that I have seen some very sad and lamentable cases of a most serious character, unquestionably occasioned by so reckless a step. Yes! more than one in which amputation was proposed, and I understand has been performed. When my opinion was asked as to the propriety of such an expedient, I could not help ridiculing the proposition as being as likely to succeed in saving the patient's life, as lopping a bough off a tree would be to stop the disease existing in the trunk or *constitution* of it, or the cutting off the ears of a young lady to cure her of a heart affection, instilled by Cupid! Ridicule, although ill-suited to so grievous a fix, sometimes carries with it that which sober reason fails to achieve.

IN CONCLUSION.

Speaking as a medical man, proud of the usefulness of his profession, regarding union as strength,—that a house against house division is fatal to social security,—and ensuing fairplay and independence, eschewing fear and servility, I unhesitatingly affirm :—

That the league (I hate the word and therefore I say), the ANTI-COMPULSORY VACCINATION ASSOCIATION has done good service (of course I don't mean by indulging in intemperate and unparliamentary language as many enthusiasts have done) in bringing the matter to issue, and are so far therefore justly entitled to praise.

That all respect is due to MR. FORSTER for the praiseworthy promptitude he exercised in causing inquiry to be made, which it is hoped will be done in a way so conducive to the object and the end sought, that it will effect a satisfactory, (as far as can possibly be accomplished, where conflicting and possibly irreconcilable elements are in motion), and a peaceful and permanent settlement of the vexed question.

And that my verdict is as will be my vote, for VACCINATION pure and undefiled, that those to come, as those who have so far happily escaped “may be not the victims of mischievous contaminations.” And that in no case, where an absolutely reasonable excuse is put forward, shall any one be compelled to submit especially to “VACCINATION *as it is.*” Moreover that no lymph shall be suffered, under a heavy penalty, to be taken or suffered from any other than one of three or four vesicles at least, on the arms of a healthy child, not exceeding six months old, that is, before any hereditary taint (which may possibly by such means be destroyed) can get into play. *Floreant scientia, Salus et Ars.*

If in an earnest discharge of the obligations of a highly responsible calling—upon which I spontaneously entered about 55 years

since, and in the deeply interesting pursuit of which I desire to draw my last breath,—I have in what I have written done damage to the feelings of any, I trust that it be generously imputed to my effort to emulate the zeal they have evinced in the discussion of a question of so vital and urgent a nature.

I totally abjure anything in the shape of intention to offend. And if I should in my endeavour to take an impartial view of the matter, looking neither to the right nor the left, but solely to the strictly midway path of truth and independence, have occasioned any anger, I hope no evil will come of it nor any other result than the bringing of disputants into harmonious communion by the mutual connection of the great necessity there is for being united, where a division in the ranks gives death an opportunity of coming in and cutting them down on both sides.

As the glimmering daylight shows the relative position of the sun to the horizon, so age imitates its decadence, and as darkness reigns when night sets in, so the span of life succumbs to the fulness of years. Therefore as “my time” cannot be far off, as I have devoted my best energies to the benefit of humanity, so I bequeath to those surviving and those coming after me my sincere wishes for their future health and welfare, and that to history entirely may be confined their acquaintance with small-pox.

March 21st, 1871.

W. W.

Just as the last sheet was going to press, the following paragraph appeared in the *Evening Standard* of the 25th inst., jocosely quoted from one of its contemporaries, the *John Bull*, under the heading of “Being Done:”—

“ON ‘BEING DONE.’—‘Have you been done?’ is now the great question asked by each man who meets his fellow-man or woman—and *vice versa*. It has superseded the usual intellectual remarks on the weather, and is valuable in conversation, as being at once personal, without being particular; and interesting without being sensational. Besides, it leads on to further conversation. If your friend has been ‘done,’ you go on and say, ‘By whom?’ and, ‘How did it take?’ and

wind up, probably, with the triumphant remark, 'Then you could not have been safe before.' If, on the other hand, your friend replies in the negative to your original question, you will of course urge him (or her) to be 'done' without loss of time. You will tell of people who have 'caught it' in spite of early precautions, and lay stress on the importance of the measure. All this time we have omitted to specify in so many words what it is we are talking about! But everybody knows; it is vaccination, which is at present the universal topic, and the thing uppermost in people's minds—and, indeed, in their bodies also! Few are they who either do not suffer, or have not suffered it. Many and obvious are the victims. If they have not one arm in a sling, they are at least tender in their way of moving; prone to little grimaces and twitches, and *cool* in shaking hands with their friends. It is *very odd* that *now* the operation *always seems* to 'take' *as on an infant's arm*, *however recently one may have submitted to it before!* What wonder they talk of it?"—*John Bull*.

This was not the case in former days! It affords strong evidence of the degeneracy to which vaccine disease has come. It shows that the matter *now used*, acts by producing festering sores and boils, such as would be occasioned by similar formations of corrupt origin and putrefactive property.

"'Tis (as the old proverb doth relate)
Equals with equals congregate."

DENHAM.

"BURNING THE BEDDING OF SMALL-POX PATIENTS."

About forty years ago when Asiatic Cholera was very rife in the town and neighbourhood in which I was then located, I found occupation for benevolent ladies, of all ages (always glad to be of use), and poor old women and children, in the making of bed, bolster, and pillow-cases of common thick grey calico (about 3½ d. a yard), and filling them with minute fragments of waste paper; almost any quantity of which could be had by asking for it at the shops of stationers, printers, binders, &c. Thus very comfortable bedding was supplied at a mere nominal cost. The insides were burnt when done with, and the cases were washed for refilling. Why should not such beds be used now?

W. W.

APPENDIX.

I.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AUTHOR AND DR. LANKESTER.

20, York Place,

October 20, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—I last evening attended at a public meeting at the St. Marylebone Vestry Room, convened for the sole object and purpose—*so stated* in the enclosed handbill of invitation—of having “the whole facts bearing upon the question,” of the eligibility or otherwise of vaccination, “ably and publicly discussed, that the truth may be arrived at,” and of course the *quæstio vexata* thoroughly, temperately, and fairly sifted and set at rest. A move fair and legitimate enough; nay, desirable at a time when the mind of the public is so excited, and a considerable section of the said public, and of the medical profession too, are so divided in their opinion upon the subject, and discontented.

Had the words of the (I had almost said specious and decoy) bill been kept to, and the unquestionably “*momentous matter*” been dispassionately discussed, no one would have had any just cause of complaint. But great was my surprise and annoyance when I found myself—who had gone there with a feeling of duty, at the cost of inconvenience, and at the risk of adding to the broken state of my health—at a partial meeting, and subjected to the *vox et præterea nihil* of loud and vehement declamation, in the place of a temperate tone of inquiry in strict accordance with the published statement. And what was still more offensive and insulting, the free utterance of gross personalities, involving the most serious allegations, and damning charges of corrupt conduct; nay, more, of a criminal violation of the trust confided to you as a public officer of the crown, whose function is one of very plenary power, as connected with the obligations of one of the most ancient and sacred institutions of this kingdom, upon the strict observance and maintenance of which, and the like vital statutes, hang the crown and the constitution.

The allegations emitted in a stereotyped speech, and loudly applauded, and endorsed by a great majority of the meeting, were, as I heard and gathered from other speakers, that you had influenced the evidence of the witnesses, prevented, if I clearly understood the remarks made, the bearings and purpose of one of the most important inquisitions of statutory enactments! and the charge is, that you "*altered the verdict* of a jury of the country," composed of men of sworn consciences, and converted an adjudication of felony—that is, manslaughter—into that of misdemeanour or misadventure. Further, such acts of yours would be found recorded at Somerset House!

Lest by my silence I should be considered as acquiescing in the outrageous remarks made, and in the way in which the real question at issue—not touched upon or approached—was blinked, and made subservient to the display of ill feeling, and the furtherance of party design, I have felt it my right and just to society, to my profession, and not less to yourself, to bring these asseverations to your notice.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Wm. WEBBER, F.R.C.S., Etc.

To Dr. Lankester,

One of her Majesty's Coroners for Middlesex.

20, York Place, Portman Square,

October 27, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—It is now a week since I, in a spirit of respect for, and "doing unto my neighbour as I would he should do unto me"—wrote to apprise you of what had been loudly stated at a public meeting, at the St. Marylebone Vestry Hall on the 19th inst., involving very grave imputations upon your integrity as a public functionary, holding an exalted, and not less responsible and important judicial office under the Crown.

Not having up to this moment received any intimation whatever of its receipt, I have come to the conclusion that my letter has either not reached you, or more probably, that your time has been so fully absorbed by the imperative duties and constant calls of office, as to exclude all opportunity for even ordinary acknowledgment.

I should not, however, have inflicted you with any further communication upon the subject, had not my eye—when I was reiterating my detestation of the disgusting asseverations indulged in at the

meeting—been brought into unwelcome contact with the enclosed brief report (but correct in the abstract) of what was said on the occasion.

A due respect for a professional brother of high standing and acquirements, as well as a due regard for the social and sacred trust, which as an able, well-informed public officer, you are commissioned to administer; and repudiating as I do altogether the proceedings of, and believing that the grave allegations uttered at the meeting were based on error, and backed possibly by a more unenviable feeling, I have been led to trespass again upon your attention.

Added to which, I have heard that the league, as also others, who wish you well, are on the tiptoe of expectation, and anxious to see what notice you are disposed to take of a matter pregnant with an issue, far beyond the silent contempt merited, and commonly and very properly visited upon mere personal abuse.

Faithfully yours,

WM. WEBBER.

P.S.—I sincerely trust that neither ill-health nor domestic calamity has been a cause of silence, in case my letter should not have miscarried either in transit or apprehension of object and meaning.

EDWIN LANKESTER, Esq., M.D.,

Coroner for Middlesex, &c.

Melton House, Burgess Hill,

Finchley Road, Hampstead,

October 29, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—Absence from home on important business delayed my reply to your former letter, and I only got your second one on my return home last evening. It is very gratifying to me to find that my conduct is approved and vindicated by my brother practitioners in my official capacity, and I thank you for advocating my cause, but you will see that if I were to attend to one-half of the misrepresentations and observations induced by conduct which I adopt conscientiously and deliberately, I should have my time overwhelmingly occupied. I invariably decline noticing or replying to any such attacks as those to which you draw my attention, and while thanking you heartily for your brotherly advocacy I must leave it where it is.

I am, my dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

EDWIN LANKESTER.

20, York Place, Portman Square,
Oct. 31, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to find from your note of the 29th, forwarded to me at Surbiton, that my letters duly reached you.

I am at the same time sorry that you, by withholding altogether repudiation of the charges, with which I deemed it but fair, not kind perhaps, to make you acquainted, leave no ground whatever for giving—as I hoped to have been enabled to do—a flat and emphatic denial to the monstrous allegations deliberately put forth at the meeting, since promulgated in the columns of a widely-circulated public print, and as vehemently re-echoed every day with significant pertinacity.

I am unconscious of having directly advocated any side beyond that of fair-play and truth, or of having discovered any other bias.

It formed no part of my purpose or intent, nor had I any right or discretion in the matter further than protesting against proceedings of which I strongly disapprove, or to do more than purge my own bosom of any participation in, or taste for the odious entertainment, which appeared to be congenial to the appetite and relish of many, judging from the vociferous plaudits which succeeded to each slanderous remark or otherwise as it fell from the lips of the harmonious and impassioned declarators. I simply sought to put you in possession of what I heard stated, when you were not present to defend yourself, and my views as a well-wisher of good order in respect of the undesirable and prejudicial impression such asseverations were calculated to create, not only as against you as a public officer, but as against a judicial office instituted for the protection and maintenance of the sacred interests of society. Moreover, I should not, most assuredly, have presumed to advocate the cause or conduct of one so far more capable than myself, even with the facts before me, of rendering an explanation. Besides, my sympathy with either the accused or accuser could not be otherwise than a matter of secondary interest.

Influential as may be the impulse, and consolation of a "*mens conscia recti*," it is not at all times, as far as my hapless experience goes, a secure shield against the shafts of enmity whether justly entertained, or unduly engendered and fostered because it does not exclude, although it defies all doubt. As the Son of Erin found out when he "considered himself to be half-married, because, he had got his own consent," but forgetting that there was another side to the question, and one very essential to the issue.

In conclusion, I have only further to observe I have done no more

than I conceived to be fair and just to you as a professional brother, holding a responsible office, to myself, and to society, for reasons I need not repeat ; and now like yourself I leave the matter where it is. Whether it will rest there or not, is another affair, but certainly as far as I am concerned it will so remain.

I will send copies (as there will, I apprehend, be no objection to such a course) of my letters to you, and your reply, in order that those preferring the charges, and with whom I imagine rest the burden of proof, may see that I have made a clean breast of what I will never endorse or be party to.

It is clear that there are more *cases* than the *vocative* involved in the substantive imputations.

Without prejudice I may here state that I could see no show whatever of probability in what was stated by one of the speakers as to the alleged or reputed cause of death in the case cited.

And the speaker who said he had gone to Somerset House and been refused a sight of the recorded and criminally altered verdict, would I suppose have found himself more at home at the Home Office, even though *he* should have discovered nothing beyond irregularity, and absence of common sense.

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

WM. WEBBER.

E. LANKESTER, Esq., M.D.,
Melton House, Burgess Hill,
Finchley Road, Hampstead.

II.

LETTER FROM STEPHEN JENNER, ESQ.

From the DAILY TELEGRAPH, January 21st, 1871.

SIR,—Will you kindly oblige by giving insertion in your paper to a few observations of mine on the present practice of vaccination? I am the great-nephew and representative of the late Dr. Jenner, with whom I spent the greatest part of my time up to his death. From what I have seen and know of his practice, and of the careless and inattentive manner in which vaccination has been conducted since his time, I do not wonder at the failures that have occurred. Dr. Jenner was continually renewing his matter from the cow, which he had

every opportunity of doing from the farms round his neighbourhood, where I went frequently to procure it. A veterinary surgeon named Tanner likewise helped him greatly. Dr. Jenner was very particular in regard to the health and constitution of the person he vaccinated; nor would he perform the operation if he saw any spot or eruption on the skin until it had subsided. Bearing all these circumstances in mind, I do not hesitate to say, from what I have seen of vaccination since his death, there is more knowledge required in the performance of it than is generally considered necessary. Fresh matter from the cow must be constantly procured, the health and state of the person about to be vaccinated observed, and the regular progress and character of the pustule attended to. Numbers of arms I have seen were so vaccinated that I am certain, by the irregular advancements and appearance of the pustule, the eruption would have no more influence in protecting the person from small-pox than a common boil.

Yours truly,

STEPHEN JENNER.

Heathfield, near Berkeley,
Gloucestershire,
January 18th.