

## **An answer to Mr. Birch, containing a defence of vaccination / by John Ring.**

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XI  
AN

A N S W E R

TO

MR. BIRCH,

CONTAINING A

DEFENCE OF VACCINATION.

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BY JOHN RING,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN  
LONDON, AND OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES OF  
LONDON AND PARIS.

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Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius.

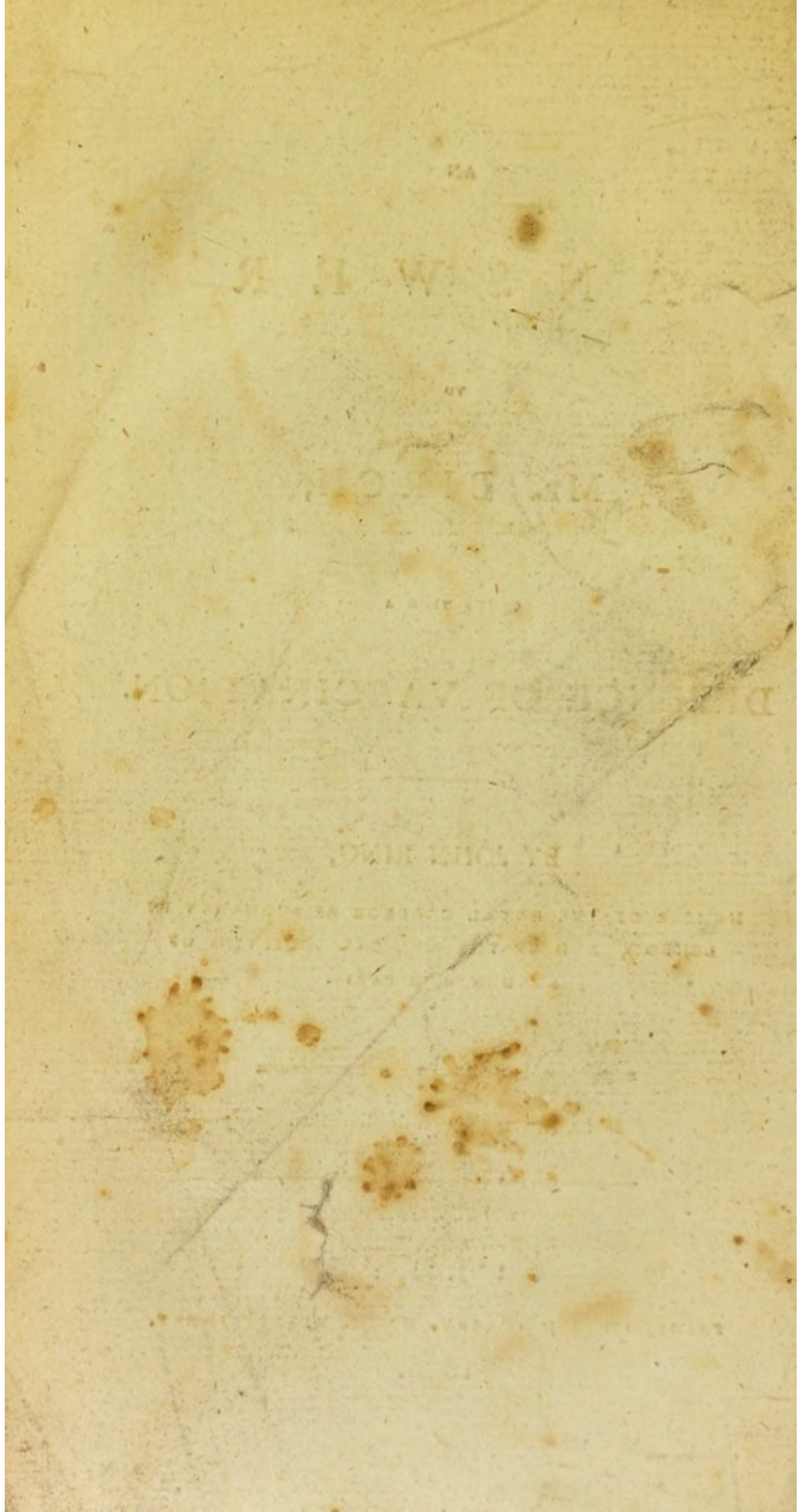
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C LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. MURRAY, NO. 32, FLEET STREET,

1806.







AN  
ANSWER,

&c.

A PERUSAL of the dull and eccentric pamphlets of Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and Mr. Birch, the three great opponents of vaccination, suggested the following parody of Dryden's panegyric on Milton :

Three wights, in London, or in Dublin born,  
Our times enlighten, and our age adorn.  
The first in quaintness of conceit surpass'd,  
The next in dulness, and in both the last :  
The force of nature could no farther go,  
To make a third—she join'd the other two.

When a man makes an awkward appearance in print, it is natural for his readers to conclude, that it is his first appearance on the stage of literature ; and that he is entitled to some indulgence, for any blunders he may happen to commit. Mr. Birch, however, cannot urge this plea, for he has appeared in the character of an author more than once ; first anonymously, then in the form of a circular letter, since published in the Gentleman's Magazine under his own name ; and next in



a pamphlet, published under the name of Mr. Rogers. Such was the success of these efforts, that it required no small share of courage, for him to appear in that character again.

*Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.*

His first attempt was in a pamphlet, entitled, "A Dressing for Lord Thurlow;" but, like every other man who ever attempted the same thing, instead of giving a dressing to Lord Thurlow, he got a dressing for himself.

My humble exertions to vindicate that illustrious character from calumny and detraction, in my "Reflections on the Surgeons' Bill," were perhaps unnecessary; and he might probably exclaim,

*Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis,  
Tempus eget.*

Mr. Birch's printed letter was circulated with great industry; casting several unmerited aspersions on the practice of vaccination; and arrogating to himself no small share of credit, for his early, steady, and uniform opposition to that beneficial practice. In this letter he talks in a vaunting style, as others have also done, about the opinion he gave before the Committee of the House of Commons; as if the Committee of the House of



Commons had set any value on his opinion, or were likely to learn any thing from him : he forgets, however, to mention, that he was compelled to appear before the Committee, at Dr. Jenner's request, in order to ascertain, whether there was any foundation for the unfavourable reports concerning vaccination, which he had so industriously propagated. He also, as well as others who were dragged before the Committee, forgets to mention, what Admiral Berkeley, Chairman of the Committee, said, when he presented their Report to the House ; that Dr. Jenner *had raked the very kennels for evidence against himself*. So far was he from suspecting, what has since been asserted by the learned Dr. Moseley, the learned Dr. Rowley, the learned Dr. Squirrel, the learned Mr. Lipscombe, the learned Mr. Roberts, the learned Mr. Sutton, and the learned Mr. Birch, that Dr. Jenner and his friends wished to conceal the truth.

His next essay, namely, that in the form of a pamphlet, is entitled, "An Examination of the Evidence before the House of Commons." In this publication, he compares the evidence given by himself before the Committee, with that given by Mr. Cline ; and, as might naturally be expected, when a gentleman is umpire in his own cause, every where gives the preference to himself.



A young gentleman of the name of Rogers, formerly his pupil, was prevailed on to father this brat; but I trust I shall be able to rescue him from the disgrace of still continuing to be the reputed author of such a contemptible farrago. Another gentleman was first applied to, and requested to adopt the bantling; but he declined that honour. In this he only paid a proper regard to his own reputation; but it is judiciously remarked by the ingenious author of a pamphlet lately published, under the title of "A Letter to Mr. Birch," that he probably had another reason for declining the office; and that he was prevented by motives of charity, from bringing forward the talents of Mr. Birch, in competition with those of Mr. Cline.

This mode of ushering a publication into the world, under a borrowed name, is of great advantage to a *modest* author; for it enables him to write a fulsome dedication to himself, and to trumpet his own praise. That Mr. Birch is the real author of this panegyric on himself, cannot be doubted; for, exclusively of the positive assurance of the fact, which I have received from different quarters, and the identity of the style, it must be recollected, the author of it considers Mr. Birch's judgment as superior to that of Mr. Cline; and I venture to affirm, that there is but



one man in the kingdom who is capable of entertaining this opinion.

To his present work he has prefixed as a motto,

————Naturam expellas furcâ,  
Tamen usque recurrit.

Thus he dislocates the hexameter, and mangles it without mercy ; furnishing an incontestable proof, that he is as well acquainted with versification as with vaccination.

He has given his pamphlet the title of “ Serious Reasons for uniformly opposing the Practice of Vaccination, in Answer to the Report of the Jennerian Society, &c.” In the course of the work, we meet with many “ serious reasons,” why we ought not to inoculate for the cow-pox. The first is, that Mr. Birch is ignorant of its origin ; the second, that he is ignorant of its effect ; and the third, that he is ignorant the small-pox is a scourge of the human race. He thinks it a kind dispensation, and “ a merciful provision, intended to lessen the burden of a poor man’s family.” It is, therefore, no wonder that he opposes vaccination.

But a still more substantial reason, alleged by him for exploding the practice, is to be found in



his letter to his quondam pupil, Mr. Rogers. It is, that from the comparative ease and safety with which it may be practised, many people who are not surgeons take up the lancet and encroach on our province. This, as he observes, is “a melancholy consideration.” It is, indeed, *a very melancholy consideration*; and cannot fail to excite the sympathy of Mr. Rogers, and every other surgeon.

These reasons, however, may not appear quite so serious to others, as they do to Mr. Birch; and indeed, it is scarcely possible to conceive that any one can be serious, when he talks in such a ridiculous strain. If any man is ignorant of the origin or effect of the cow-pock, it is either owing to want of reading or of intellect; and if provisions are scanty, we should endeavour to increase them by the cultivation of waste land, not by the massacre of children.

As to the last reason assigned, namely, that in vaccination many persons encroach on the province of the surgeon, this is one of the greatest recommendations of the practice, in the opinion of every liberal and enlightened mind. It is owing to the comparative safety, mildness, and simplicity of this species of inoculation, which is so obvious even to the meanest capacity, that Dr.



Moseley says, it may be practised by a fool as well as by a philosopher. It is therefore to be hoped, that Mr. Birch and his friends will console themselves by this reflection, as they may practise vaccination when other trades fail. As to any loss they may sustain, in consequence of such encroachment on their province,

*Durum, sed levius fit patientiâ,  
Quicquid corrigere est nefas.*

He says, it was natural that the enthusiasm with which vaccination was at first adopted should subside. It is well known, however, that it did not subside, till a number of false reports concerning it were industriously circulated by certain medical practitioners, who, if they were not sensible of its effect on the constitution, began to be sensible of its effect on their income.

This was, indeed, a melancholy consideration, such as might well rouse a man from a state of apathy, and kindle his resentment: hence all those illiberal and scurrilous attacks on the practice; hence all those exaggerations, misrepresentations, and fabrications, with which the press has groaned. But, as Mr. Birch observes, truth must ultimately prevail.

He flatters himself, that he shall soon see what still remains of popular opinion favourable



to vaccination, vanish into thin air. This is not the first time that he has flattered himself, and it probably will not be the last.

*Spem vultu simulat, premit altum corde dolorem.*

He tells us, he should have patiently waited the event, and, contenting himself with having publicly expressed his opinion, should not have taken any part in the controversy, had it not been for considerations of humanity. Considerations of humanity, he tells us, “supersede all others.” These are happy tidings; for we have been taught to believe, that “charity begins at home,” and “too often ends there.”

Had not Mr. Birch himself informed us, what his motives were in writing his pamphlet, we might have been led to suspect, both from the style and sentiments of the performance, that they were not so honourable nor so pure as he pretends. It is also very comfortable to reflect, that vanity had no share in this undertaking; for nothing can be more unfortunate, either for individuals, or society at large, than for a medical practitioner to entertain an overweening conceit of his own judgment.

He tells us, that, wherever he goes, he finds the minds of parents distracted with doubt, and



labouring under gloomy apprehensions. This renders it probable, that he goes nowhere but among the most illiterate and ill-informed members of the community; for no others are so much distracted with doubt, or labour under such gloomy apprehensions, as persons of this description.

He tells us, that the *fluctuations* of medical opinion, concerning the origin and nature of the vaccine disease, *fills* them with alarm. He also tells us, these parents are in the most fearful state of suspense; and that they are afraid, lest what they are persuaded to do, in hopes of preserving their children from one disease, should *not* prove the means of plunging them into another. He sympathizes with those parents who labour under such a dreadful state of suspense, and who are afraid they shall *not* lose their children; and every person who considers the hardness of the times, and has read Malthus on Population, must do the same. For, as Mr. Birch truly observes, while on one hand they hear of repeated instances of the failures of vaccination, which, according to his statement of the case, must give them hopes; on the other, they meet with Reports from the Jennerian Society in favour of the practice, which must excite their fears, lest their children should live to be a burden to them.



He tells us, that these Reports are signed by the names of different practitioners, some of whom are of the highest respectability. He also tells us, they are full of *seeming* arguments and assertions in favour of vaccination; but he moreover tells us, that these arguments are only just plausible enough to excite doubt; but not sufficiently strong to produce conviction. If the Reports in favour of vaccination, signed by names of the *highest respectability*, are no better than this, what can be expected from the Reports unfavourable to the practice, which are *not signed by names of the highest respectability*, nor founded on arguments, but on simple assertions? It is desirable to know, what he means by the term respectable; and how any person can be really respectable, who signs a Report such as he describes, namely, one that is fallacious, and only calculated to delude the public.

While the minds of parents are so distracted, the opinions of medical men so fluctuating, and the literary champions on both sides arranged in martial array, Mr. Birch thinks it his duty to interfere, and to decide the contest. It is, indeed, impossible to conjecture, how long they might have continued in this perilous state of uncertainty, and what the issue of the strife might have been, had not Mr. Birch at length taken pity on them,



and drawn his goose-quill in order to set the matter right.

This, he tells us, is his primary motive; and surely no man was ever actuated by a more honourable motive; nor can any one render a more essential service to his country, than by bringing forward such arguments as are best calculated to fix the wavering opinion of the public.

He tells us, he intends to confine his remarks as much as possible, to the Report of the Royal Jennerian Society, and to Mr. Moore's pamphlet; to which he pays the compliments that are justly due. It may be doubted, however, whether Mr. Moore will consider himself under any great obligation to him for his compliments; and whether he will not reject them, as Mr. Blair rejected those of his colleague and fellow-labourer, Dr. Rowley; declaring, that although he was one of the few medical practitioners whom Dr. Rowley had never offended, and whom he had even complimented for his ingenuity, candour, and love of truth, yet he thought his censure better than his praise.

This observation is very just; for if a controversial writer is complimented by his opponents, it neither proves him to be more or less able, or



more or less candid, than his fellow-labourers; it only proves, that there is a greater coincidence between his opinions and those of his opponents.

*Quicquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*

Since, however, Mr. Moore's candour is acknowledged by Mr. Birch, I will here in some measure state what he thinks of the opponents of vaccination.

He says it was a thing of course, that this innovation in practice should cause contention; but confesses it has been carried to unexpected lengths. He observes, that on this occasion, in addition to the general motives for dissensions among medical men, there was one which rarely fails of producing such an effect on all mankind. By this he means self-interest: for he observes, the small-pox was the source of no inconsiderable portion of the income of every medical man; and while physicians and surgeons were contending for the practice, and eager to engross the whole, it was not to be expected that a plan calculated to take it away from both, would be kindly received by either.

He farther observes, that Dr. Jenner's discovery was a touchstone, intended to shew what proportion of selfishness alloys the human heart; and



how far the feelings of medical men are blunted, by the scenes of misery which they are forced to witness. He also remarks, that the result has certainly reflected distinguished honour on the medical profession; the members of which in general, in every part of the civilized world which the discovery has reached, zealously adopt the practice, in order to promote the extermination of the small-pox.

He acknowledges, however, and acknowledges with reluctance, that there are a few practitioners who are not entitled to a share of this praise; but he adds, it would be unjust to censure them, merely because they oppose vaccination. This is only a just and candid remark, to the truth of which every one must subscribe. When, therefore, they are censured for opposing vaccination, such a censure certainly implies an opinion, that they are not actuated by honourable motives; an opinion justified by facts. Either they have been convicted by their own confession, or by the most incontestable evidence, of opposing the practice before they understood it; or of bringing forward cases again, which had already been fully refuted; or of propagating wilful falsehoods of the most gross and abominable kind. Mr. Moore is not the man, who would wish to screen such characters from the censure they deserve.



When speaking of their first and favourite objection against vaccination, namely, that it is derived from the brute animal, Mr. Moore says, it requires but little reflection to perceive, that this is merely an imaginary objection; few people being ignorant of this melancholy fact, that the most diseased of all animals is man. He contrasts the horrors of the small-pox, and the venereal disease, with the mild symptoms of the cow-pock; not forgetting to remark, that the cow, if she could plead her own cause, might contend she should never have been troubled with this complaint, had not her pure teats been polluted by the hand of man. But he is of opinion, the most timorous mother can never suspect, that there is now in the vesicle a single particle of the fluids of the cow. It is become a human affection; but one so mild, that it scarcely merits the name of a disease.

Having quoted Horace, he remarks, that if there were the same curious felicity of diction in the writings of the anti-vaccinists, every classical reader would forgive them. But he observes, whatever may be decided with respect to elegance, there is no doubt that they surpass the poet in anger. He quotes a few choice specimens of their correct and elegant style. I shall here quote another from Mr. Birch's pamphlet: "The fatal



*consequences* that result, from uneducated practitioners, in every branch of medicine, assuming the province of the surgeon, and experimenting on inoculation, *is* justly depicted in the Report of the Jennerian Society." Since, however, these ill *consequences* of bad education *is* so justly depicted in the said Report, and *is* also judiciously noticed by Mr. Birch in his pamphlet, it is natural to expect, that in future, those who superintend the education of surgeons will bear it in remembrance, and *not spare Birch*.

Another choice passage immediately follows. He tells us, the results of general practice were different *to* the account of Dr. Jenner and his friends. But such trifling blemishes in the blaze of literature which occasionally bursts from the pen of Mr. Birch, are only like specks in ermine, or spots in the sun.

Mr. Moore observes, that if the opponents of vaccination had held their tongues a little longer, and not decried it before they saw it, or knew any thing about it, they might have been supposed to act on the principle of a prudent scepticism; and some people might have suspected, that they possessed more wisdom than the eminent medical men in every part of the civilized world, who so readily believed in the virtues of the practice.



But he adds, although these modern sceptics doubt the evidence of an immense number of facts in favour of the practice, they are credulous to excess of every obscure case of a contrary tendency. Reversing the rule laid down by Lord Bacon, for those who are in search of truth, first to establish facts, and then to deduce the principle from these facts, they first establish the principle, and then adduce the facts; which they bring forward in such a shape, as may best suit their purpose.

He takes notice, that although it must readily be confessed, there is no subject in which the establishment of facts is so difficult as in medicine, yet those published by Dr. Jenner were so clear and well authenticated, that they soon excited very general attention. They were not like those cures which are daily attested by the oaths of ladies and gentlemen, lawyers and divines, coronets and mitres; in which the deponents may either be mistaken in thinking they were cured, or in thinking they were cured by the nostrum, whose miraculous virtue they are so ready to attest. Dr. Jenner's publication bore no resemblance to one of this kind; but contained an account of a number of experiments well conceived, and candidly related. Others repeated these experiments, and with the same result.



Hence, he observes, this extraordinary discovery made a rapid progress over every part of the world where letters had penetrated. It was not a mere rumour, eagerly swallowed by the credulous multitude, nor a crude notion, or fanciful conceit, propagated by the great vulgar or the small; but a mature and well-digested opinion, propagated by competent judges, by skilful surgeons, sagacious physicians, and learned professors; men who were fully aware of the danger of trusting to plausible theories, and even to the fallacies that sometimes result from a representation of facts. Hence the ingenious, the prudent, the profound, in every quarter of the globe, eagerly adopted the practice; and even the Turks and Hindoos, laying aside their religious prejudice, submitted to vaccination.

“Who, then,” exclaims Mr. Moore, “are those confident men, who venture to come in competition with such a conjunction of learning and intelligence? who have the boldness to arraign all that are eminent in medicine, in every part of the civilized world, accusing them, not only of having committed a gross error, but of madness? who exalt themselves as of higher authority, and more accurate than all others? I do not pretend to measure the capacities of such extraordinary men. Their own works are the



proper standard, by which their claims to this stupendous merit should be decided."

He next favours his readers with a few quotations from the works of the anti-vaccinists; in which he clearly evinces, that those gentlemen, who accuse others of being ignorant and illiterate, are not possessed of that great degree of merit which they arrogate to themselves; and that their abilities are not of the transcendant kind, which they seem to imagine. Such is the estimation in which the anti-vaccinists are held by Mr. Moore; whose candour Mr. Birch himself admits. It is true, Mr. Moore entertains a doubt, whether the small-pox ever occurs a second time in its primary malignity. This doubt he confesses; and when the other advocates of vaccination entertain a similar doubt, they will confess it also.

Mr. Birch tries to convince parents, that the inoculation of the small-pox has disarmed the disease of all its terrors. Dr. Moseley has been trying more than seven years to convince them of the same; but if he should try to convince them of it seven years longer, he will only labour in vain. He pretends that he has inoculated thousands of people in the West Indies, as well as in Europe; but I am informed, that when he was in the West Indies, he paid much more attention to



other objects, than to the inoculation of the small-pox.

As to his vaunt, that he has inoculated thousands in the West Indies, as well as in Europe, without losing a single patient, I long ago refuted that assertion. Having heard from respectable authority, that a child of the Earl of Rosslyn died of inoculation under his care, I wrote to his Lordship, who did me the honour to return an answer, confirming the fact; and referring me for particulars to Mr. Dundas of Richmond. Mr. Dundas informed me, that he was first consulted relative to the inoculation of the child, and that he wished to defer it, on account of his health; but Dr. Moseley, who was next consulted, advised the operation, and attended the case with Mr. Dundas; which proved fatal. This is not the only child whom the Noble Earl has lost by the inoculation of the small-pox.

After examining the arguments of Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and Dr. Squirrel, which are nearly analogous with those of Mr. Birch, Mr. Moore observes, that in spite of all our boasted modern improvements, a part of those who are inoculated die. This, says he, is admitted by all eminent and candid physicians. He says, it is difficult to



ascertain the proportion of deaths; because no practitioner, for obvious reasons, is willing to acknowledge the whole truth on this delicate point. He is, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that no man, whose testimony is worth listening to, can dare to assert that the small-pox, even under inoculation, is not often attended with alarming symptoms; and that no physician or surgeon, who has a regard for truth or his own character, when advising the inoculation of the small-pox, will ever pretend it is without danger.

From the preceding statement it is evident, what opinion is entertained of the present opponents of vaccination by Mr. Moore, whose candour Mr. Birch acknowledges, and the justice of whose sentence the public in general will acknowledge. It is not a hasty decision, but the result of patient inquiry, deep reflection, and sound judgment.

To this valuable testimony in favour of vaccination, I shall add one extracted from another very able publication, intitled, "The Vaccine Contest," written by Mr. Blair; who, after analysing Dr. Rowley's illiberal pamphlet, has ingeniously turned his arguments against himself; and condemned him from his own mouth.



He borrows from Dr. Rowley the second title of his publication, calling it "Mild Humanity, Reason, Religion, and Truth, against fierce unfeeling Ferocity, overbearing Insolence, mortified Pride, false Faith, and Desperation."

He also borrows his motto from Dr. Rowley's tract, which is as follows: "When men have become so abandoned as to *pervert truth*, it is high time for the learned in the Faculty to awaken from their torpid lethargy." He declares his opinion, that there never was an instance of a publication so full of *falsehood* and mischief, as that in question: a perusal of it therefore suggested to him the idea of turning the author's own weapons against himself.

This was the text-book, from which Mr. Birch drew no small portion of his pamphlet. This was the publication, in which, according to Mr. Birch, so many hundred cases of failure were attested, "not by hasty observers and unscientific operators, but by able and experienced practitioners." No other publications contain the number of cases alluded to by Mr. Birch.

This was Mr. Birch's fellow-student, his associate, his fountain of knowledge, his oracle, and his bosom-friend. We learn, indeed, from the



writings of Dr. Rowley, that this friendship was of no common duration, but cemented by an intimacy of forty years standing. When, therefore, we recollect, that the human species partake in some degree of the nature of the chameleon, which is said to assume the complexion of surrounding objects, we cannot but think it very fortunate that his pamphlet is no worse.

It is rather remarkable, that almost in the very breath, in which he alludes to the candour of Mr. Moore, he himself should betray the greatest want of candour; and give a striking specimen of what we are to expect from him. The Report of the Royal Jennerian Society, which is one of the objects to which Mr. Birch intends as much as possible to confine his remarks, opens by stating, that the Medical Council of the Society, having been informed of certain cases, and certain prejudices, appointed a committee of twenty-five of their members, to inquire into them.

He says, he shall not call the judgment of the Council in question; yet he calls it in question every moment. He thinks it possible, that they might so far forget their dignity, and their duty, as to elect persons of both sexes, and all professions, as a committee to inquire into the most important and intricate subject that ever came be-



fore a medical tribunal. Surely he could never suppose that they would elect barber-surgeons, electricians, and old women, as a committee for medical inquiry! If he is serious, if he is sincere, and if he is really so ignorant as this, it is lucky for him that he is not at a grammar-school; otherwise he might look to one of his own family for a sound flogging.

He justly observes, that in order to qualify a man for the task of inquiring into the truth of the reports circulated on this subject, it is necessary he should not only understand vaccination, but also be possessed of a thorough knowledge of medicine. How then came Mr. Birch to set himself up as a judge in this cause? A mere surgeon, or electrician, can have no pretences to a thorough knowledge of medicine; or to any knowledge of medicine, farther than is necessary for the cure of a sore leg, or a fistula in ano.

Since, however, he thinks the Council guilty of an unpardonable omission, in not publishing the names of the persons who constituted this committee, I shall supply that defect; and then leave it to better judges than him, with reverence be it spoken, to decide, whether this omission arose from any consciousness, that the members whom



they selected were incompetent to the task. They were as follows : Drs. Baillie, Blane, Willan, William Hamilton, Marcet, Yelloly, Skey, Denman, Croft, Clarke, and Adams ; Messrs. Addington, Aiken, Field, Hingeston, Knight, Edward Leese, Lewis, Parkinson, Paytherus, Pearson, Ring, Upton, Wachsel, and Wilson.

He is dissatisfied with the Medical Council for what they have done, and what they have left undone ; he finds fault with their style, and with their sentiments. One while they are too dogmatic, another too indecisive ; in short, whatever they say or do, they cannot please him. He continually snarls at them, like Diogenes in his tub ; and tells them not to take away what they cannot give. However, he has this consolation ; if they do not give him much light, it is certain they cannot take much away.

He pretends, that they required stronger evidence of the occurrence of the small-pox after the cow-pox, than of its occurrence after the small-pox ; a pretence neither warranted by evidence, nor confirmed by facts. He pretends, that if they had wished to see more cases of failure, they might have seen them ;—he probably means, in Dr. Rowley's pamphlet, or his own.



These cases, he tells us, are attested by the evidence, not of hasty observers and unscientific operators; but of able and experienced practitioners. The best answer to this bold allegation, is the Report itself, which I here insert.

“ The Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society, having been informed that various cases had occurred, which excited prejudices against vaccine inoculation, and tended to check the progress of that important discovery in this kingdom, appointed a Committee of twenty-five of their members to inquire, not only into the nature and truth of such cases, but also into the evidence respecting instances of small-pox, alleged to have occurred twice in the same person.

“ In consequence of this reference, the Committee made diligent inquiry into the history of a number of cases, in which it was supposed that vaccination had failed to prevent the small-pox, and also of such cases of small-pox, as were stated to have happened subsequently to the natural or inoculated small-pox.

“ In the course of their examination the Committee learned, that opinions and assertions had been advanced and circulated, which charged the



cow-pox with rendering patients liable to particular diseases, frightful in their appearance, and hitherto unknown ; and judging such opinions to be connected with the question as to the efficacy of the practice, they thought it incumbent upon them to examine also into the validity of these injurious statements respecting vaccination.

“ After a very minute investigation of these subjects, the result of their inquiries has been submitted to the Medical Council ; and from the Report of the Committee it appears :

“ I. That most of the cases, which have been brought forward as instances of the failure of vaccination to prevent the small-pox, and which have been the subjects of public attention and conversation, are either wholly unfounded or grossly misrepresented.

“ II. That some of the cases are now allowed, by the very persons who first related them, to have been erroneously stated.

“ III. That the statements of such of those cases as are published, have, for the most part, been carefully investigated, ably discussed, and fully refuted, by different writers on the subject.



“ IV. That notwithstanding the most incontestable proofs of such misrepresentations, a few medical men have persisted in repeatedly bringing the same unfounded and refuted reports and misrepresentations before the public; thus perversely and disingenuously labouring to excite prejudices against vaccination.

“ V. That in some printed accounts adverse to vaccination, in which the writers had no authenticated facts to support the opinions they advanced, nor any reasonable arguments to maintain them, the subject has been treated with indecent and disgusting levity; as if the good or evil of society were fit objects for sarcasm and ridicule.

“ VI. That when the practice of vaccination was first introduced and recommended by Dr. Jenner, many persons, who had never seen the effects of the vaccine fluid on the human system, who were almost wholly unacquainted with the history of vaccination, the characteristic marks of the genuine vesicle, and the cautions necessary to be observed in the management of it, and were therefore incompetent to decide whether patients were properly vaccinated or not, nevertheless ventured to inoculate for the cow-pox.



“ VII. That many persons have been declared duly vaccinated, when the operation was performed in a very negligent and unskilful manner, and when the inoculator did not afterwards see the patients, and therefore could not ascertain whether infection had taken place or not; and that to this cause are certainly to be attributed many of the cases adduced in proof of the inefficacy of cow-pox.

“ VIII. That some cases have been brought before the Committee, on which they could form no decisive opinion, from the want of necessary information as to the regularity of the preceding vaccination, or the reality of the subsequent appearance of the small-pox.

“ IX. That it is admitted by the Committee, that a few cases have been brought before them, of persons having the small-pox, who had apparently passed through the cow-pox in a regular way.

“ X. That cases, supported by evidence equally strong, have been also brought before them, of persons who, after having once regularly passed through the small-pox, either by inoculation or natural infection, have had that disease a second time.



“ XI. That in many cases, in which the small-pox has occurred a second time, after inoculation or the natural disease, such recurrence has been particularly severe, and often fatal; whereas, when it has appeared to occur after vaccination, the disease has generally been so mild, as to lose some of its characteristic marks, and even sometimes to render its existence doubtful.

“ XII. That it is a fact well ascertained, that, in some particular states of certain constitutions, whether vaccine or variolous matter be employed, a local disease only will be excited by inoculation, the constitution remaining unaffected; yet that matter taken from such local vaccine or variolous pustule is capable of producing a general and perfect disease.

“ XIII. That if a person, bearing the strongest and most indubitable marks of having had the small-pox, be repeatedly inoculated for that disease, a pustule may be produced, the matter of which will communicate the disease to those who have not been previously infected.

“ XIV. That, although it is difficult to determine precisely the number of exceptions to the practice, the Medical Council are fully convinced



that the failure of vaccination, as a preventive of the small-pox, is a very rare occurrence.

“ XV. That of the immense number who have been vaccinated in the army and navy, in different parts of the United Kingdom, and in every quarter of the globe, scarcely any instances of such failure have been reported to the Committee, but those which are said to have occurred in the metropolis, or its vicinity.

“ XVI. That the Medical Council are fully assured, that in very many places, in which the small-pox raged with great violence, the disease has been speedily and effectually arrested in its progress, and in some populous cities wholly exterminated, by the practice of vaccination.

“ XVII. That the practice of inoculation for the small-pox, on its first introduction into this country, was opposed and very much retarded, in consequence of misrepresentations and arguments drawn from assumed facts, and of miscarriages arising from the want of correct information, similar to those now brought forward against vaccination, so that nearly fifty years elapsed before small-pox inoculation was fully established.



“ XVIII. That by a reference to the bills of mortality it will appear, that to the unfortunate neglect of vaccination, and the prejudices raised against it; we may, in a great measure, attribute the loss of nearly two thousand lives by the small-pox, in this metropolis alone, within the present year.

“ XIX. That the few instances of failure, either in the inoculation of the cow-pox, or of the small-pox, ought not to be considered as objections to either practice, but merely as deviations from the ordinary course of nature.

“ XX. That if a comparison be made between the preservative effects of vaccination, and those of inoculation for the small-pox, it would be necessary to take into account the greater number of persons who have been vaccinated within a given time: as it is probable that, within the last seven years, nearly as many persons have been inoculated for the cow-pox, as were ever inoculated for the small-pox since the practice was introduced into this kingdom.

“ XXI. That, from all the facts which they have been able to collect, it appears to the Medical Council, that the cow-pox is generally mild and harmless in its effects; and that the few cases,



which have been alleged against this opinion, may be fairly attributed to peculiarities of constitution.

“ XXII. That many well-known cutaneous diseases, and some scrophulous complaints, have been represented as the effects of vaccine inoculation, when in fact they originated from other causes, and in many instances occurred long after vaccination ; and that such diseases are infinitely less frequent after vaccination, than after either the natural or inoculated small-pox.

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“ Having stated these facts, and made these observations, the Medical Council cannot conclude their Report upon a subject so highly important and interesting to all classes of the community, without making this solemn Declaration :

“ That, in their opinion, founded on their own individual experience, and the information which they have been able to collect from that of others, mankind have already derived great and incalculable benefit from the discovery of vaccination : and that it is their full belief, that the sanguine expectations of advantage and security, which have been formed from the inoculation of the



cow-pox will be ultimately and completely fulfilled.

(SIGNED)

“ EDW <sup>d</sup> JENNER, M. D.	EVERARD HOME,
President.	ROBERT HOOPER, M. D.
J. C. LETTSOM, M. D. V. P.	JOSEPH HURLOCK
JOHN RING, V. P.	JOHN JONES
JOSEPH ADAMS, M. D.	THO <sup>s</sup> KEY
JOHN ADDINGTON	FRANCIS KNIGHT
C. R. AIKIN	E. LEESE
WM. BABINGTON, M. D.	L. LEESE
M. BAILLIE, M. D.	WILLIAM LEWIS
W. BLAIR	WILLIAM LISTER, M. D.
GIL. BLANE, M. D.	ALEX. MARCET, M. D.
ISAAC BUXTON, M. D.	JOSEPH HART MYERS, M. D.
W <sup>m</sup> CHAMBERLAINE	JA <sup>s</sup> PARKINSON
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ASTLEY COOPER	JOHN PEARSON
WM. DANIEL CORDELL	GEORGE REES, M. D.
RICHARD CROFT, M. D.	JOHN GIBBS RIDOUT
THO. DENMAN, M. D.	J. SQUIRE, M. D.
JOHN DIMSDALE	JA <sup>s</sup> UPTON
HENRY FIELD	J. CHRISTIAN WACHSELL
EDWARD FORD	THO. WALSHMAN, M. D.
JOSEPH FOX	ROBERT WILLAN, M. D.
WILL. M. FRASER, M. D.	ALLEN WILLIAMS
WILLIAM GAITSKELL	JAMES WILSON
WM. HAMILTON, M. D.	J. YELLOLY, M. D.”
JOHN HINGESTON	

January 2, 1806.



With respect to failures after the inoculation of the small-pox, Mr. Birch pretends they are not numerous; although the contrary is proved by the most unquestionable authority. He says, not more than three cases of this kind have occurred in more than half a century; but it is probable a greater number occur every day.

He says, the failures in vaccination are attested by experienced practitioners. The failures in variolous inoculation were also attested by experienced practitioners; and not only by experienced practitioners of the present day, but also by Sir Richard Blackmore, and Mr. Tanner, surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital, a worthy predecessor of Mr. Birch.

In order to give my readers some idea of the manner in which failures in vaccination are increased and multiplied, I shall inform them, how an inquiry into such cases was conducted by Mr. Birch's friend, Dr. Rowley, one of those able and experienced physicians, whom he so highly extols. In his introduction, p. vi. he says, "The plan for prosecuting future inquiries is introduced." Accordingly, in p. 22, it is really introduced, in all its naked deformity.



First, you are to ask, whether the parties have been inoculated for the cow-pock. If the answer is in the affirmative, you are to ask, whether they have had the small-pox. If you are told they have had it, you are not to ask, how, when, or where they had it; or whether the cow-pox took; or whether it was genuine or spurious. Neither are you to listen to any arguments, that may be urged against the probability of such an occurrence. However specious they may be, they are mere evasions, and totally irrelative to the subject. They may confound fools, says Dr. Rowley; and they must be fools indeed, who can be confounded by any such questions.

Be this as it may, Dr. Rowley maintains, that no other questions are admissible. Thus we are to conclude that every idle rumour we hear is true, without farther inquiry. This is exactly the plan which Dr. Rowley himself observed in general; but on some occasions, he followed the example of another impostor, and published his own inventions. This is one of the *able* and *experienced physicians*, by whom the cases of failure in vaccination are attested. It is he who has brought forward such a long list of cases; partly fabricated abroad, and partly of home manufacture. Some of them, as Mr. Birch contends, may be true; but not more true than the old adage,

Stulto non creditur etiam verum dicenti.



Dr. Rowley was the wholesale dealer: Dr. Moseley, Mr. Sutton, and some others, are only retail dealers in these Birmingham coins. If we may believe a letter from Mr. Sutton to Dr. Moseley, published by the latter, Dr. Jenner and his nephews vaccinated people whom they never saw; in places where they never set their foot. While the fictions of interested persons like these, are deemed failures of vaccination, there will never be an end of failures. As to Mr. Birch's assertion, that the small-pox never occurs a second time, I have brought forward many unquestionable proofs of the contrary in my other publications, and in the Medical Journal. I have seen three cases within the space of a twelvemonth, where the small-pox occurred a second time, in persons who had previously had the disease by inoculation. The subjects of them were a child of the Earl of Westmeath; a child of Mr. Chitty in East Street, Red Lion Square; and Miss Weller, at No. 6 in Panton Street, a patient of Mr. Anderson in Fleet Street.

I have given an account of many other well-authenticated cases in my Treatise on the Cow-pox, and my Answers to Mr. Goldson and Dr. Moseley; particularly of one which occurred at West Shefford, near Newbury, and proved fatal; another in the person of Mr. Fewster of Thornbury, after he had practised the inoculation of the



small-pox to a very considerable extent, more than forty years. But one of the most remarkable is that which I published, together with several others, in the Medical Journal; in which the subject of it, a man at Arundel, had the small-pox in his infancy, so severely, that he apparently died of it, and was laid out. Nevertheless he recovered, and was a living monument of the ravages of the disease; on which account he was selected to attend people labouring under the same complaint, in the pest-house. After being many years in this situation, he caught the small-pox of some patients whom he had been attending; and fell a victim to the distemper on the twelfth day. This case, which happened in the year 1799, was communicated to me by Dr. Plowden of Arundel; who first saw him on the 6th day, and attended him till the time of his death.

Mr. Birch however is of opinion, that no person can have the small-pox more than once. This, he says, is considered as one of the invariable laws of nature. Yet he tells us, if it could be proved that an exception to this law ever takes place, it only serves to confirm it; that is, if a man has the small-pox twice, it is a proof he can have it but once.



The opponents of vaccination seem at times a little conscious of the part they have acted; and of the reproaches which their misrepresentations are likely to bring down on their heads. When, therefore, the Medical Council affirm, that most of the cases they had examined were either unfounded or mistated, these worthy gentlemen take the alarm, "and each cries, That was levell'd at me." Hence Mr. Birch, when he read this declaration of the Council, naturally thought of his own cases; and even when he is quitting the subject, he tells us that he quits it without any unbecoming fears or apprehensions. Indeed, when I recollect the share he has had in these transactions, I cannot think a little fear, and a little apprehension, at all unbecoming.

'Tis conscience that makes cowards of us all.

Sensible that he was the principal in the performance, he says, "If they allude to the cases mentioned by Mr. Rogers in his pamphlet, I pledge myself to prove them all." He is as anxious to prove Mr. Rogers's cases, as if they were his own. He seems to throw off his disguise, and to exclaim with Nisus,

Me, me, adsum qui feci, in me convertite ferrum,  
 O Rutuli! mea fraus omnis; nihil iste nec ausus,  
 Nec potuit: cœlum hoc et conscia sidera testor.  
 Tantum infelicem nimium dilexit amicum.



*On the Cases in Mr. Rogers's Pamphlet.*

Those who have read the evidence of Mr. Birch, before the Committee of the House of Commons, which may be seen in the "Evidence at Large," published by the Rev. Mr. Jenner, or in my Answer to Dr. Moseley, must be well aware, that Mr. Birch's pledge to prove these cases is nothing but an empty boast. It appears from the evidence of Dr. Lister and Mr. Cline, and even from that of Mr. Birch himself, that the three children who were vaccinated in St. Thomas's Hospital, had all been previously exposed to the infection of the small-pox: nevertheless, the eruption and indisposition which ensued, in two of them, were so very trifling, that it is doubtful whether they were the consequence of constitutional infection, or of mere contact, as in nurses. In one instance the small-pox was severe; but this is no wonder, since it appeared only four days after vaccination; which could not therefore be supposed, in this instance, either to mitigate or aggravate the disorder.

Mr. Birch pretends, that from these cases Dr. Woodville learned the nature of the eruptions which occurred in his vaccine patients at the Small-pox Hospital, and that they were real small-pox eruptions. This is what I told all the world



long before; first in the Medical Review, and next in my Treatise on the Cow-pox.

He also pretends, that if the three children, whose cases are before related, had been inoculated with the small-pox, this inoculation would have superseded and destroyed the natural infection already received. The small-pox commonly appears about a fortnight after the natural infection is received. In one instance, therefore, it was probably received about ten days previous to vaccination; yet Mr. Birch is inclined to believe, that if the child had been inoculated for the small-pox, the natural infection would have been superseded and destroyed.

It ought, however, to be mentioned, as an apology for Mr. Birch, that he has had but little experience in inoculation. The contrary, indeed, was stated, in the account of his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons first published; but he has now corrected that error. Let no one hence rashly conclude, that Mr. Birch is not a great judge of the matter; for he gives us to understand, that if he has not had much experience in inoculation, his friend Baron Dimsdale has.



So much for the cases of small-pox after cow-pox, as they are called, or of small-pox and cow-pox together, as they might more properly be called, in Mr. Rogers's book, which Mr. Birch pledged his word, and his professional reputation, to prove. He further pledges himself, if more cases are necessary, to prove "many more, of variolous infection caught *after* regular vaccination." Here he seems to insinuate, that in the foregoing cases, variolous infection was caught after regular vaccination; which is contrary to the fact.

In Mr. Rogers's pamphlet it is observed, that the Committee of the House of Commons took notice of the contradictory opinions of Messrs. Cline and Birch; and the author of that pamphlet, Mr. Rogers, alias Mr. Birch, thinks it a little remarkable, that as those gentlemen were educated under the same masters, and have practised many years at the same hospital, their opinions are not the same. This, however, is a very silly notion; for if two gentlemen are educated under the same masters, and practise in the same hospital, their knowledge, as well as their opinions, may be very different. One of them may be the greatest surgeon in the kingdom, and the other the greatest blockhead.



Mr. Birch contends, that if the adverse cases are not all true, a majority, or at least more than one third of them, must be true :

—————credat Judæus Apella,  
Non ego.

Whatever may be the number of them, they must be supported by better authority, before any man, who has a single grain of common sense, will believe them.

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*On the Safety of Vaccination.*

Mr. Birch pretends, that people have died in consequence of the puncture of vaccine inoculation, but never in consequence of that of variolous inoculation. It requires only a very moderate share of judgment and experience to know, that both these assertions are groundless. It is impossible for any person, who possesses a moderate degree of understanding, to believe, that the puncture of vaccination, which occasions but one pustule, can ever prove fatal, unless from ignorance or neglect; but as the puncture of variolation commonly occasions many pustules, it is natural to suppose that it sometimes proves fatal. One instance occurred in the family of a gentleman, who was formerly a surgeon at Bristol; but retired from practice, on marrying a rich heiress;



and Mr. Ford informs me, that two cases of the same kind have fallen under his observation.

One remark made by Mr. Birch is extremely curious. He says, when a person is inoculated for the small-pox, and dies, he dies of the small-pox, and nothing but the small-pox. What would Mr. Birch have him die of? the plague? He tells us, that in the inoculation of the small-pox, the appearance of the punctured arm is uniformly the same. He ought, however, to have excepted those cases, in which there is a violent inflammation, a confluent eruption, an eruption of purples, an extensive ulceration, an abscess, or a mortification.

On this, as well as every other occasion, Mr. Birch is as inconsistent as possible, both with reason, and with himself. First, he asserts, that the local complaint is uniformly mild; and then, that it requires all his skill, or that of his friend Baron Dimsdale, to restrain it within proper bounds. What are the public to do in this dilemma? Baron Dimsdale rests from his labours; and it is much to be feared, that he has not bequeathed his skill to Mr. Birch.

Considerations of humanity, it seems, have induced Mr. Birch to interfere, and to offer his service



on the present occasion. Certainly considerations of prudence had no share in the offer. Prudence would have dictated a little more caution, and not have urged him to come forward vaunting about his experience, and pretending to decide on the comparative merit of inoculation; when he has not inoculated so many in the course of his life, as a country practitioner has inoculated before breakfast, without bragging half so much of his performance.

The Royal College of Physicians have declared their opinion, that the practice of vaccination is *perfectly safe when properly conducted; and highly deserving the encouragement of the public, on account of the great advantage ultimately expected from it.* Mr. Birch, however, knows much more than the whole College of Physicians; and he is of opinion, that physicians are not so good judges of these matters as surgeons. This is a comfortable reflection for him and me. He tells us, he finds the inoculation of the small-pox safe. This may be true, since he tells us, that even when it falls into the hands of the most ignorant and unskilful practitioner, we have but little to apprehend.

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*On the Qualifications of an Inoculator.*

Mr. Birch contends, that surgery has mitigated the small-pox; and that inoculation ought to be



practised only by surgeons. At Constantinople the operation was performed by an old woman; and, we are informed, with good success. Improvements have been made in the practice since its introduction into this kingdom; but not by any man who was a mere surgeon. I cannot, therefore, see any title Mr. Birch has to a monopoly of the practice, unless he can make it appear, that he is a real representative of the old woman.

He thinks the practitioners of midwifery are not impartial judges in this case, because they have an interest in robbing him of his business. He seems, however, not to recollect, that for the same reason he, or any other practitioner of electricity, is not an impartial judge; because he has an interest in robbing them of theirs.

He tells us, p. 32, that owing to many ignorant and illiterate people attempting to vaccinate, the result of the general practice was different *to* the accounts of Dr. Jenner and his friends; and p. 35, that he received accounts from the continent, very different *to* Mr. Moore's representation. P. 2, he tells us, that the *fluctuations* of medical opinion *fills* the minds of parents with alarm; and that they are fearful lest what they do, in hopes of saving their children from one dis-



ease, may *not* plunge them into another; and p. 31, that the fatal *consequences* of uneducated practitioners pretending to be surgeons, is justly depicted in the Report of the Jennerian Society.

In the page from which the last quotation is extracted, he tells us that if ever surgery should lose any part of its due estimation, it will be owing to the unwarrantable presumption of some who practise it without a proper education. In this opinion I cordially agree with him; and any one who reads the preceding paragraph must acknowledge, that there are no writings which betray a want of education more, or from which surgery is more likely to lose a part of its due estimation, than those of Mr. Birch.

After alluding to those, who are not of the medical profession, and practise vaccination merely from motives of humanity, he alludes to Mr. Wachsel and me. It is no wonder that I am an object of his resentment, on account of its having so often fallen to my lot to correct his misrepresentations in my "Reflections on the Surgeons' Bill," my Answer to Dr. Moseley, and the Medical Journal; but I am at a loss to conjecture, why he has singled out Mr. Wachsel to accompany me, unless it be on account of the great number he has vaccinated. This was sufficient



to excite Mr. Birch's jealousy ; but it is also probable that he joined another practitioner with me, as a partaker of the calumny, in order to conceal the rancour and malignity of this base attempt.

He says, from the patients vaccinated by Mr. Wachsel and me, he could bring instances, if the House of Commons were *again* to demand it of him, of more failures, more deaths, and more diseases, than have occurred in the practice of any other two persons, who have come within his knowledge. It must be observed, however, that he offers to prove this, only when the House of Commons shall demand it of him *again*. They have never yet demanded it of him ; and he may perhaps be wise enough to know, that they cannot demand it a second time, till they have already demanded it once.

But I will tell him, why I think they never will demand it of him. They know that what he stated to them before, when they demanded of him to state what he knew of the subject in general, was not well founded ; and that it was refuted by Dr. Lister and Mr. Cline. They also know, that when Admiral Berkeley, Chairman of the Committee, declared, on delivering the Report of the Committee to the House, that Dr. Jenner had raked the very kennels for evidence, he



alluded to Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and their worthy colleague, Mr. Birch.

There is one striking difference between the falsehoods advanced by Dr. Rowley, and those advanced by Mr. Birch, which is this: Dr. Rowley boldly states the facts, or at least the pretended facts; and of course gives the person whom he calumniates an opportunity of refuting them, and of vindicating his character. But Mr. Birch was determined to bring his charges in such a manner as not to give those whom he calumniates any opportunity of vindicating their characters, or of clearing themselves from his foul aspersions.

The indictment laid against Mr. Wachsels and me by Mr. Birch, consists of three articles. The first is, that we have had more failures than any other two persons who have come within Mr. Birch's knowledge. As to Mr. Birch's knowledge, that is neither here nor there; and as to the failures which have occurred in the practice of Mr. Wachsels and myself, our share will not be small, if it is in proportion to our practice.

Mr. Birch himself does us the honour to suppose, that the Committee will not call us ignorant; and it is not a little flattering to our



characters, and gratifying to our feelings, that he has thought fit to select us as proofs, that when vaccination fails, the fault is not in the practitioner, but in the practice. This is no small compliment, when we consider, that it is extorted from an enemy, and from such an illiberal enemy as Mr. Birch.

That failures occur in vaccination, as well as in the inoculation of the small-pox, is acknowledged; but one striking difference appears between those which occur after vaccination, and those which occur after the natural or inoculated small-pox. In the former the disease is mild; in the latter it is sometimes severe, and even fatal.

As to diseases in consequence of vaccination, that is only an absurd notion of some of the lower orders of the medical profession; and proceeds either from a selfish motive, or a disease of their own brains; and as to a death from the cow-pox, it will be time enough to refute the charge, when it is supported by any person of veracity and common sense.

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*On the Origin of the Cow-pox.*

Mr. Birch never expresses an opinion concerning the cow-pox, without betraying his ignorance of the subject. He affirms, that Dr. Jenner's opinion



of its origin is given up by his best friends ; when it is well known, that his best friends are maintaining his theory, and confirming it by additional facts. He asks, why we are forbidden to inoculate from the cow ? In answer to this question, I answer, we are not forbidden to inoculate from the cow. He says, he is not satisfied that Dr. Jenner's theory of the origin of the disease is well founded ; that Dr. Jenner has given no criterion, but the effect, by which he can distinguish one species of the cow-pox from the other ; but has left him in the dark. Dr. Jenner has given ample information on this subject ; and elucidated these points to the satisfaction of every rational man ; but he can neither give sight to the blind, nor understanding to the simple. If, therefore, eight years after the promulgation of the discovery, Mr. Birch is *still in the dark*, I am afraid he will always remain there.

He is ready to admit, that the origin of the virus is not in the cow ; and that she is indebted for this disease to the hand of man ; but here also he gives a specimen of his candour. Instead of admitting that it is derived from the horse, he asks whether it is the itch ? This question, however, has been already answered in the negative, by an ingenious friend of mine who was born beyond the Tweed. It is evident the disorder does not



originate from the itch; otherwise it would be known in Scotland.

Mr. Birch then asks, whether it originates from the venereal disease? This question is as readily answered in the negative, by the bloom of health in the countenances of our dairy-maids; who are as safe from that complaint in the vale of Gloucester, as if they were at Mr. Birch's house in Spring Gardens, and under his protection.

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*On Mr. Birch's Opposition to Vaccination.*

Mr. Birch pretends, that he was the first who opposed vaccination. In this respect, he arrogates to himself rather too much; and endeavours to rob his elder brother, Dr. Moseley, of his birth-right; and not only Dr. Moseley, but also his other elder brother, that unfortunate man in Somerset Street; who, because he could not put an end to vaccination, put an end to himself. It is true, I frequently heard of his secret and sinister attempts, to prejudice the minds of the poor people in the Borough against vaccination, when I was diffusing the benefits of that salutary practice among the poor people in the neighbourhood, by gratuitous inoculation at their own houses, more than six years ago. From this act of spleen and resentment, I am inclined to suspect, that



he thinks I did not shew sufficient mercy to his  
 “ Dressing for Lord Thurlow.”

—manet altâ mente repostum  
 Judicium, atque hæret lateri lethalis arundo.

It may be worth while for him and Dr. Moseley to contemplate the end of that unfortunate man, whose case is before alluded to; and to reflect on the cause of his melancholy catastrophe, which was ambition. It may also be prudent for them to reflect on the fickleness of fortune, and the instability of professional distinction; and to recollect, that the man who now basks in the sunshine of popularity, and enjoys the smiles of statesmen, of peers, and even of princes, may to-morrow be discarded, and fall into disgrace. Every doctor has his day.

Mr. Birch tells us, that he received a letter from the palace at Lambeth, desiring to know whether he had changed his opinion concerning vaccination; but he does not inform us whether this letter was from the butler, the housekeeper, or the lady's maid. He also tells us, that a clergyman waited on him from his Grace, in order to converse with him on the subject. If this is true, it only shews, that his Grace's mental faculties began to decline: otherwise he would have consulted the records of Parliament, or the College of Physicians, or at



least, some person who was likely to give him satisfactory information, and not Mr. Birch. He would as soon have consulted the witch of Endor.

Mr. Birch says, this transaction is perfectly known, *he believes*, to all the partisans of vaccination. Hence it is evident, he does not know it. For my own part, I neither know it, nor believe it; and it is impossible that the worthy prelate himself should contradict the story. Dead men tell no tales.

I have the greater reason to suppose, that no doubts of the efficacy of vaccination were excited in the mind of this venerable prelate by so feeble an instrument as Mr. Birch, from perusing a letter written by order of his Grace to Mr. Murray, Secretary of the Royal Jennerian Society, dated Lambeth House, 2d April 1803, and signed G. W. Diches, Secretary. It is as follows:

“ *Lambeth House,*  
2d April 1803.

“ SIR,

“ I AM directed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to request you will do him the favour to present his compliments to the gentlemen of the deputation from the Royal Jennerian Society, whom he had the honour of seeing here on Tuesday; and to state to them, that having fully



considered their application, and having communicated it to several of the Bishops, his Grace does not think himself at liberty to comply with their wishes; for as no instance can be found in which the Archbishops and Bishops ever made a communication to the Clergy at the request of any Society whatever, there might be great impropriety in deviating from the usual practice on the present occasion.

“ His Grace directs me to add, that it appears to him, that the attention of the Clergy to the great and benevolent object which the Society have in view, and to which he most cordially wishes all possible success, would be more speedily and effectually obtained, by an immediate address to them from the Society, than by any other means; and his Grace begs, Sir, that you will also assure the Society, that whenever an opportunity is afforded him and the Bishops, by a personal conference with their clergy, they will not fail to enforce the advantages likely to result from this providential discovery.

“ I am, Sir, &c.

“ G. W. DICHEs, Secretary.

“ *Mr. Charles Murray.*”

Hence it appears, that this venerable prelate was so far from entertaining a doubt of the utility



and importance of vaccination, that he expresses his hopes of the advantages likely to result from the discovery, which he justly considers as providential.

Mr. Birch disapproves of Mr. Moore's method of confounding all the writers against vaccination in one class. He therefore declines following his example; and will not pay his ingenuity so bad a compliment as to couple him with me; for whom he thinks it probable, Mr. Squirrel is more than a match,

In this he is certainly right. I have never dubbed myself a doctor. I have never been called on by the College of Physicians, in order to pass an examination; and of course, I have never declined that honour. I have never written Doctor on my door, and of course have never been obliged to erase that title. I have never turned quack; nor advertised a nostrum, nor discovered a remedy for the gout. I must, therefore, confess, that Mr. Squirrel is more than a match for me; and that I am no more fit to hold a candle to him, than Mr. Cline is to Mr. Birch.

As to Mr. Birch, I am no more worthy to be compared to him, than a taper is to be compared to the sun. It is true, I am a member of the



same College, and have passed the same examination. It is also true, that a man may be a surgeon in extraordinary, without being an extraordinary surgeon.

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*On the Diseases attributed to Vaccination.*

Mr. Birch talks of new diseases, which he ascribes to vaccination. It is certain, however, that although the cow-pock has been known from time immemorial, and has long attracted particular attention, it was never suspected that it occasioned any other disease; nor would it have been suspected now, had it not been suggested to the public by men who live by disease.

One of these new disorders, according to Mr. Rogers's book, is a hasty abscess, containing matter dissimilar to any other. This is Mr. Birch's language; and there is no room to doubt, that the idea itself also originated with Mr. Birch. Another of these new disorders is the scrofula, another is a bug-bite, and another is the itch. These disorders Mr. Birch observes, are to be heard of in every parish in London. Alas! they are at times to be heard of in almost every house; and were too often heard of long before the practice of vaccination commenced. He tells us,



that when once the lower orders of society conceive prejudices, it is not easy to root them out. It is, therefore, the more cruel in him to excite prejudices in people of this class; and to take advantage of their weakness. He talks of philosophy; but, like the clergyman who was preaching before the condemned criminals, he defers giving a specimen of it till another occasion.

He wishes to be indulged with the privilege of inoculating for the small-pox seven years longer; during which period he thinks it probable, things may be restored to their former footing; and the mortality of the disorder return to its old standard. He is, however, an enemy to a promiscuous intercourse between those who are under inoculation, and others who have not had the small-pox; probably because he is not likely to attend those who have the disease in the natural way.

He is so partial to the inoculation of the small-pox, that he endeavours to prove it has been the cause of diminishing the scrofula. His argument to prove that this disease is less prevalent since the introduction of variolous inoculation than before, is curious. He reminds Mr. Moore, and the partisans of vaccination, that we do not now hear of crowds of people flocking from the most distant counties, to be cured by the supposed



virtue of the royal touch ; nor see pieces of gold, endued with sovereign power, suspended at their necks, to cure the complaint. It was hardly to be expected, that we should meet with any person, and especially a hospital surgeon, so ill-informed as not to know, that this is not owing to the want of objects.

Mr. Moore, in return, says, he will *remind Mr. Birch*, if it is possible to *remind* him of what he seems never to have known, that an event called the Revolution took place in this kingdom, in the year 1688 ; in consequence of which, the hereditary monarch, who possessed the divine right of ruling the people with a rod of iron, and the divine power of curing the evil by the royal touch, was compelled to resign the throne ; and as neither the Prince of Orange, nor the sovereigns of the House of Hanover, felt themselves endowed with these supernatural faculties, they have been contented with possessing the crown, and have left the remnant of the Stuart family in the undisturbed possession of their healing power.

Mr. Moore observes, that Cardinal York lately exercised this power at Rome ; and he entertains no doubt, with as much success as his ancestors. He forgot to notice another doctor of this family, the Cardinal's elder brother, who undertook to



remedy the complaints of the people of England in the late reign. But as he killed more than he cured, he is commonly called the Pretender.

Mr. Moore observes, that if Mr. Birch had been tolerably acquainted either with the history of the scrofula, or the history of England, he would not have committed such a mistake. Mr. Moore, however, must know, that we have pretenders in modern times, who are so little acquainted with the history or the treatment of diseases, that, like the other modern adventurer, they kill more than they cure.

But as a positive argument, that the scrofula is less frequent now than it formerly was, Mr. Birch says, he could adduce several large families of *children*, where it has been hereditary for generations, who having been inoculated, have grown up to maturity, without exhibiting any symptoms of that disorder. This is a very singular circumstance; and when he is next called before the Committee of the House of Commons, in order to throw new light on the subject, I hope he will bring these *full-grown children* with him, in order to corroborate his assertion.

I would also advise him, when he next appears before the Committee, to mention a case of



abscess, which occurred in a relation of a member of parliament inoculated by him, at the very time when he formerly appeared before that tribunal, and was boasting of his success. This case is alluded to in the Gentleman's Magazine for March 1805; where it is remarked, that if he has forgotten the circumstance, as some people are apt to do when it militates against them, Mr. Cline will refresh his memory.

I also recommend to him, when he answers Mr. Moore again, to quote the passages in his book faithfully. At present, Mr. Moore, with all his candour, when he notices Mr. Birch's misquotations, misrepresentations, and erroneous conclusions, cannot help expressing an opinion, that although he wishes to think favourably of his intentions, and not to accuse him of acting insidiously and unjustly, yet *appearances are against him.*

Mr. Moore apologizes to Mr. Birch, for having overlooked his letter published in the Magazine; and observes, that had he replied to all the anti-vaccinists, although the vanity of some *obscure* writers might have been gratified by any notice taken of their works, yet he should have exhausted the patience of his readers. In truth, he had never seen the letter; yet Mr. Birch, conscious



of the part he had acted, thought Mr. Moore had been levelling his keen irony at him. One remark of Mr. Moore is particularly worthy of attention; which is, if new diseases have arisen from vaccination, it is very surprising, that no celebrated practitioner, however extensive his practice, has ever seen them.

Mr. Birch quotes a passage in Mr. Moore's book to shew, that the laws of nature are immutable; and, although apparent deviations are common, that there is in reality no exception. This, it seems, is the catholic faith, which except a man stedfastly believe, he cannot be a true philosopher.

“How different from such language,” says Dr. Mac Donald, “was that of Dr. Hunter; who after spending a long life in the investigation of the animal economy, openly avowed, in his latter days, that the machinery of the human frame was so infinite, the parts so delicate, and their relation to, and influence upon each other, so incomprehensible, that he looked on himself in the true and humble light of a mere inquirer.

“Such were the modest words of Dr. William Hunter, the honour of his country, his age, and his profession. Had medical men followed the



steps of this departed genius, or had they kept in view what they were taught by Bacon, *non fingendum aut excogitandum quid natura faciat aut ferat, sed inveniendum est*, independently of the benefit humanity would have derived from such a conduct, it would have conferred the highest honour upon themselves, and the science they professed."

Mr. Birch quotes another passage from Mr. Moore's work, in order to shew, that it is rather a contradiction to suppose one individual can have the small-pox twice, when another who is organized in the same manner, can have it but once. This, however, is begging the question; for it is not yet proved, that another individual is organized in the same manner. What then is the criterion, by which we are to distinguish the organization of different individuals? By their fruits we may know them; for we must not expect to gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles.

To illustrate this argument by an example: no man can read Mr. Moore's pamphlet, without reaping both amusement and instruction; but any man may read Mr. Birch's pamphlet, without reaping either amusement or instruction. Hence it is evident, that these two individuals are very



different from each other; and that their organization is not the same.

I shall pursue this argument a little farther, in order to elucidate the point still more clearly, and to render my meaning intelligible even to the opponents of vaccination. Men, generally speaking, are rational; but some men are not rational. Men, generally speaking, have brains; but some men have no brains: *ergo*, all men are not alike, and their organization is not the same. I, therefore, see no absurdity in supposing, that in consequence of a certain peculiarity in his constitution, one individual may be liable to a disease once or more, from which another is exempt.

Mr. Birch accuses the friends of vaccination of too much art. He also accuses them of trick, contrivance, and deceit. The friends of vaccination, with much more reason, accuse him of trick, contrivance, and deceit; but they will never accuse him of too much art.

He says, they have never disproved any well-attested fact. This is undoubtedly true; for when a fact is disproved, that very circumstance is a proof, that it was never well attested.

He is so conscious of the weakness of his argument, and of the cause he has undertaken



to defend, that he endeavours to transfer the *onus probandi* to his opponents. He calls on them to prove three negatives, when the most expert logicians all agree, that it is impossible to prove one. He thinks it an argument against vaccination, that there are members of the Medical Council for whom he has no respect. It would, however, be a much stronger argument against it, if he could prove that there are members in the Medical Council, who have any respect for him.

He is for ever boasting of the opinion he gave before the Committee of the House of Commons, like Dr. Moseley; taking care, like him, never to mention, that he was compelled to appear there, in order to justify the unfavourable reports he had been circulating against vaccination. He thinks the sanction with which the practice has been honoured, ought to be withdrawn. What, though it has been honoured with the sanction of the Royal College of Physicians? What, though it has been honoured with the sanction of the Royal Family? What, though it has been honoured with the sanction of the Parliament of Great Britain? It ought not to be practised; for it has not been honoured with the sanction of Mr. Birch.



It is, however, a little unfortunate, that while Mr. Birch is arrogating so much to himself, and endeavouring to establish such high pretensions to knowledge, he is under the necessity of admitting his entire ignorance of the subject. A milkman in Kent Street applied to him, on account of a disorder in his hand and arm, which he was told was the cow-pox. This idea was, indeed, in some measure countenanced by a coincidence of circumstances; some other milkers being in the same condition, and the teats of the cows being also affected.

It was, therefore, rather natural for this ignorant milkman to suppose, that he had the same disorder as his cows, agreeably to the maxim lately adopted by his betters, *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*. In this dilemma, he applied to Mr. Birch, at St. Thomas's Hospital, concluding that Mr. Birch's opinion was better than his own. In this he was much mistaken; Mr. Birch, forsooth, "*had not been used to see the natural cow-pox.*" It turned out, however, to be a very unnatural cow-pox; for Mr. Birch, who was as ignorant of the nature of the disorder as the milkman himself, having asked one of his pupils, a raw lad from the country, what he thought of the case, he gave his opinion, that it was *the rank itch*. This opinion was confirmed by the appearance about



the fingers ; and the man was cured, by means of  
itch ointment, within the space of a week.

That Mr. Birch should be taught by his pupil,  
cannot excite much surprise in any one who is  
acquainted with him, as the author of the letter to  
him justly observes ; and if others are to defer the  
inoculation of the cow-pock, till he understands  
it, I am afraid they will defer it a long time. He  
himself has certainly a right to defer adopting it,  
till he has acquired some knowledge of the prac-  
tice.

He is jealous of the honours and rewards be-  
stowed on Dr. Jenner by the medical profession,  
by parliament, by the British empire, and by the  
world. He is, however, rather singular in think-  
ing, that these honours and rewards are unmerited.  
A learned foreigner, now a professor at Wilna,  
Dr. Joseph Franks, having made a tour in Eng-  
land and Scotland, published an account of it on  
his return to the continent ; in which, after al-  
luding to the conduct of one envious and malig-  
nant individual, who had endeavoured to deprive  
Dr. Jenner of the fruits of his labours, he declared,  
that during his stay in England and Scotland, al-  
though he conversed with a great number of me-  
dical practitioners and others, they were all una-  
nimously of opinion, with only this one exception,



that the remuneration granted by parliament to Dr. Jenner was inadequate to his desert.

This anecdote, I doubt not, will sharpen Mr. Birch's resentment against vaccination, and the immortal author of that discovery. His jealousy was first excited at the anniversary dinner of the governors of Guy's Hospital, or, as he quaintly terms it, Mr. Guy's Hospital. At this meeting he was chagrined at finding, that more homage was paid to Dr. Jenner, and Vaccina, than to Mr. Guy, and his neighbour Mr. Birch.

When speaking of the merits of Dr. Jenner, Mr. Birch forgets all his maxims of serious inquiry, sober investigation, and calm discussion; and gives vent to all the bitterness of invective. Instead of the expeller of contagion, he wishes him to be considered as an inventor of disease. This is only an invention of Mr. Birch; who thinks Dr. Jenner ought to be answerable for what happened before he was born. He also wishes to inscribe on Dr. Jenner's bust the following motto, "Davus sum non Œdipus;" which was applied to his own friend, Dr. Rowley, by a gentleman under examination at the College of Physicians, and is also very applicable to himself. He must, however, give vent to his spleen.



Envy will merit, as its shade, pursue,  
 But, like a shadow, proves the substance true:  
 For envy'd wit, like Sol eclips'd, makes known  
 Th' opposing body's grossness, not its own.  
 When first that sun too pow'rful beams displays,  
 It draws up vapours which obscure its rays;  
 But ev'n those clouds at last adorn its way,  
 Reflect new glories, and augment the day.

Had Mr. Birch wished to expose his ignorance of the history of vaccination, and his total unacquaintance with the subject, on which he has thought proper to employ his pen, he could not have been more successful. He says, the discovery was mentioned to Sir George Baker forty years ago. This is only a mistake of about ten years; a trifle with him. He then endeavours to persuade us, that in consequence of its being communicated to Sir George Baker, it was tried, and failed, and no more was said about it. This, it is well known, is a very gross misrepresentation. It was in some measure tried, and found to succeed; in consequence of which it was communicated to Sir George Baker. This is, therefore, either an erroneous and ignorant assertion, or an audacious attempt to impose on the credulity of the public.

He even goes so far as to assert, that Mr. Hunter did not give the experiment much credit. This is another groundless assertion; for Mr.



Hunter mentioned the circumstance to Dr. Pearson, nine years before Dr. Pearson published his account of it; and so far expressed his conviction of the utility and importance of the practice, that Dr. Pearson thought it worth mentioning in every subsequent course of his lectures. It was also mentioned by Dr. Adams, in his Treatise on Morbid Poisons, in 1795; and by Dr. Woodville, in his History of Inoculation, in 1796; being communicated to them by Mr. Cline. It appears also, from the evidence of Mr. Home before the Committee of the House of Commons, that ten years before Dr. Jenner published his work on vaccination, although Mr. Hunter did not then think himself competent to decide on the merits of his discovery, he encouraged him to prosecute his experiments.

Mr. Birch says, it is contrary to the general laws of nature, to suppose there are two sorts of the cow-pox. When he understands the laws of nature, he will be a better judge of matters of this sort. Certainly he cannot draw this inference from any analogy of the human species; who would think themselves very happy if they were not liable to more sorts of pock than the cow.

I have often seen the spurious cow-pox in the cow, but not the genuine. Mr. Birch says, there



is a genuine sort of small-pox, but not a spurious sort: in this assertion, however, he is also a little unfortunate. In my Treatise on the Cow-pox I remarked, that many writers on the continent, and some of our own countrymen, call the chicken-pox by that name; and that the similarity of the two diseases has been, and still is, a very fertile source of error. I was this day informed by Mrs. Hunt of Meard's Court, Wardour Street, that two members of the College of Surgeons mistook the chicken-pox in one of her children, for the small-pox. One of them inoculated two children from it, and the other would have done the same, had not those whom he was about to inoculate, been seized with the natural disorder; yet her child afterwards died of the small-pox.

Mr. Birch observes, that since a genuine and a spurious cow-pox is admitted by vaccinists, he will suggest a conjecture concerning their origin: which is, that the former arises from the small-pox and the latter from the itch. These conjectures, he intimates, may serve for an explanation of this theory, till wiser heads than his have determined the point. I must therefore inform him, that much wiser heads than his have long ago determined the point; and that neither the genuine, nor the spurious cow-pox, proceeds from any such cause.



He pretends that Dr. Jenner retired into the country, because he could not answer all the questions proposed; nor inquire into all the failures which occurred. This, like the rest of his wretched trash, is a very gross misrepresentation; and the mere offspring of pique and resentment. Dr. Jenner never came to London, without remaining there longer than he intended; and longer than his other avocations conveniently admitted. It is also worthy of observation, that as far as regarded his practice in the metropolis, he might say with another individual, who has also the misfortune to be an object of Mr. Birch's jealousy,

*Quamvis multa meis exiret victima sepiis,  
Pinguis et ingratae premeretur caseus urbi,  
Non unquam gravis ære domi mihi dextra redibat.*

Even Mr. Birch, with all his illiberality, admits, that a man who neglects his own private interest, in order to promote the interest of the public, has a claim to a public recompense; and, on this principle, that Dr. Jenner had a right to a parliamentary remuneration. He also admits, that it was wise in him to make the experiment; because it is only from experiment we can ascertain, what is, and what is not, beneficial to society. But he is of opinion, that vaccination has not accomplished all the objects expected from it; and



that the sanction with which it has hitherto been honoured, ought to be withdrawn. Of this, however, he will be a better judge, when he has seen something of the practice; or read what has been written on the subject; or imbibed a little more instruction from his own pupil.

Mr. Birch is an electrician; and has for a long time been endeavouring to deter the public from vaccination by propagating false reports, and giving their faith in the practice a violent shock: but his book is a bad conductor. As to the tail-piece which he has so awkwardly tacked to the end of it, by the interrupted suture, it is a rudder, intended to guide his frail bark through the tempestuous ocean of criticism, into which, unfortunately for him, it is now launched. It is not the offspring of Mr. Rogers, as has been falsely and impudently asserted, but of Mr. Birch; and it is now generally acknowledged to be only a *chip of the old block*.

I cannot take my leave of Mr. Birch without noticing, that among all the productions of the opponents of vaccination, his appears to me to bear away the palm, for personal enmity, and vindictive rancour. As to the reports which he has heard concerning the practice of Mr. Wachsen and myself, he can scarcely be so ignorant as not to know,



that either by chance, or our own exertions, we are placed on an eminence in the vineyard of Vaccination; and that our conduct is narrowly watched.

Had he ever read Virgil, he would know, that it is dangerous to trust the voice of Fame; who is a babbling sort of a lady, and full as confident in her assertions, when propagating lies, as when telling the truth. He would also know, that she is fond of terrifying great cities; which commonly contain a multitude of foolish and credulous inhabitants, who are fond of being led, or rather misled, by a blind guide.

He would also know, that a story loses nothing by telling; and, as it is possible he may still have access to one nursery, from which those usurpers the accoucheurs have not yet excluded him, he may find in a little sixpenny volume, bound in calf and gilt, the story of the three black crows. When he has read this useful lesson, he will learn to pause, and to ponder, before he believes every idle tale that may reach his ears. Were I to give credit to all the unfavourable reports which I have heard concerning him, and his practice, he is the last man in the profession whom I would employ as a surgeon.



Ere I take my leave of my readers, I conceive it a duty to lay before them one or two, of the innumerable testimonials in my possession, in favour of vaccination. The two following are inserted, not as the strongest, nor as the best, but as the nearest at hand; and as amply sufficient to answer the purpose, which is, to convince every unprejudiced person of common sense, that vaccination is beyond all comparison preferable to the inoculation of the small-pox.

The first is from Mr. Neyle, a surgeon of Piddletown, in Dorsetshire, dated May 31st, 1806. By this it appears, that a general inoculation took place in the aforesaid town, and in the adjoining parish of Burlston, a short time before; in the first week of which Mr. Neyle inoculated three hundred and thirty-six persons for the small-pox; thirty of whom had been vaccinated the summer before, and two four years ago, by himself, and four by other practitioners. These thirty-six were now put to the test of variolous inoculation, for their own satisfaction.

He also now vaccinated twelve persons; two of whom he also inoculated for the small-pox within forty-eight hours after the insertion of the vaccine fluid. The other ten, with nine others who had previously undergone vaccination, were



left to take their chance, without any further inoculation.

The result was as follows. Of the three hundred inoculated for the small-pox, though strictly dieted, well-physicked, and in general very attentive to all Mr. Neyle's directions, which were similar to those given by the ablest inoculators, and though the weather was rather favourable, a brisk north, or north-east wind having mostly prevailed, forty had a considerable sprinkling of pustules, occasioning much trouble to their friends. Forty-five had the disorder so severely, as to require constant attendance night and day, during the eruptive fever and the state of maturation, having all been, for a longer or shorter period, blind.

Ten were so dangerously ill as to demand regular medical attendance, and recovered after they had been given over, and one fell a victim to the distemper; whereas all those who had been before, or were at this time vaccinated, escaped the infection of the small-pox, though they lived in the same place, under the same roofs, and even in the same chambers with them; having gone through what can scarcely be called a disease, without pain to themselves or trouble to their friends, without attention to diet or any other



kind of regimen, and, what may be thought still better, without physic.

The second testimonial I shall insert, is a letter from Dr. Reyss, of Makow in Poland, to Dr. Jenner, a translation of which I read at the late anniversary of the Royal Jennerian Society; but as an erroneous account of it appeared in the public prints, I shall here subjoin a correct copy.

*Copy of a Letter from Dr. REYSS, of Makow in Poland, to Dr. JENNER.*

“ JOHANNES REYSS ad Illustrem Magnificum EDOVARDUM JENNERUM, &c. &c. Variolarum mortiferarum Eradicatorem præclarum.

“ NUPER mihi, a quodam amico scyphum argenteum comparavi, cui casu Dantisci in venditione publica emptus venerat. Diligentius artem et operam intuenti, cum primum nomen ibi Jenneri, sub die 9. Martii, anni 1745, excusum repererim, mox inde summæ lætitiæ gradum expertus sum; serioque intentus, ut quod aliquo fortassis eventu è Gazophylacio ipsius dignissimorum progenitorum alienatum fuerit, quantocius reverti queat.

“ Attamen interest votis meis plenissimo cumulandis gaudio, ut exiguum hocce animi mei erga



te, vir præclarissime, documentum, faustissimo natalitiorum tuorum die, nempe 17. Maii, in loco ipso sistatur, quo, communis lætitiæ causa, alma tuorum, seu potius humanitatis amicorum Societas, te diu incolumem, longævis temporibus sospitem, hilarissima inter convivia, circumeunte nominis tui amplitudine insignito poculo, per vices alternas proclamare et extollere poterit.

“ Liceat ergo te alloqui, Clarissime Domine, verbis, quibus totius quasi orbis consensus nomen tuum resonat, ac remotissima posteritas suum benefactorem profitebitur. Accipe itaque specimina magni nominis, et honoris quem adeptus es, ac simul pignus indubitabile laudis longe lateque diffusæ; meique etiam memor esto, qui licet immensa a te locorum distantia dissitus sim, veruntamen sincerissimo affectu, ardoreque ejusdem exercendi instituti, tibi, vir clarissime! copulari desidero.

“ Non dedignabitur nihilominus magnitudo tua exordia ac progressus laboris mei vaccinatione hic allaturos iri, quod cordi suo humanitatis zelô succenso perjucundum fore minime dubito.— Prima itaque mihi, anno 1799, notitia fuit, de felici inventione Vaccinæ per illustrem magnificum dominum, ac statim flagrans desiderio, in tam salutifera methodo certiolem me reddendi, omnibus



conatibus ampliorem instructionem sibi acquirendam putavi, donec anno 1800, luci publicæ apparuerit illustris magnifici domini de Vaccinatione opus præstantissimum, ex Anglico idiomate in Germanicum versum operâ D. de Kin, Lipsiæ prelo mandatum; simul etiam studui ut quantocius aptam vaccinæ materiam mihi procurarem, cujus tandem haud facile ex Londino per Dantiscum potitus sum.

“ His igitur auxiliis adjutus, tempore autumnali, 1801, jam multum provector, inoculare incepti octo infantes; cujus operationis gratia, cum mihi plenissime utilitatem et veritatem rei compertam habuerim, materiam pro anno subsequente, 1802, diligenter asservavi.

“ Interea D. La Fontaine, vir in re literaria benemeritus, cœpit typis Varsaviensibus mandare, ita dictum, *Diarium Sanitatis*: quo in opere multum satagebat, ut sinistrae de vaccinatione nostra opiniones propagarentur, et tam innocentissima ars, quasi in primis incunabulis suffocaretur. Ipsius hæc præjudicia, fortasse ex aliquibus auctoribus Berolinensibus deprompta, et Polonicâ linguâ exposita, vix dici possit quanta obstacula et impedimenta progressui ulteriori vaccinationis posuere. Avidiùs ergo curam omnem, et vires meas impendi; ad id, ut errores his in



regnis contra vaccinationem præconceptos, ex animis evellerem. Sciens vero, plus inesse fidei praxi, quam scriptis et altercationibus literariis, huic operi accinxi me anno 1802, a die 14. Junii, per provinciam, suo sumptu; ac parvulis pauperum 1433 vaccinam inoculavi; solvendo etiam aliis, ut mutuo sese adhortarentur proposito præmio, inter grassantem omni ex parte luem mortalem variolarum naturalium.

“ Testem hujus rei ac operis provoco novalias seu gazettas Varsavienses; quibus inscribi voluit hoc, testimonii loco, synagoga Judæorum oppidi Tarnobrzeg, ubi de sexaginta, qui a parentibus inoculationi subducti erant, viginti mortui, duo excæcati sunt; de septuaginta vero et uno, quibus inoculavi, licetsi insimul dormientes, manducantes, et ludentes fuerint, nequidem unus infectus aut mortuus est.

“ Ad annum itaque 1803, sub dato 3. Martii, publico exposui operis mei præstiti ad annum 1802 notitiam, quæ in Varsaviensibus, æquè Cracoviensibus novaliis exposita, id perfecerat in animis hominum, præsertim rudiorum, ut certatim ad me concurrerent una cum prole inoculationi traditâ. Jam vero, anno 1803, Sacra Cæsarea Majestas, publico suo patentali, in toto regno inoculandos mandavit infantes. Huic saluberrimæ



dispositioni satisfaciendæ, unam sectionem pro  
mei personâ accepi, ac inibi inoculavi infantibus  
1214; in anno 1804, infantibus 1345. Summa  
triennalis inoculationis, tantum per menses quinque  
sibi succedaneos, incipiendo a Maio usque ad  
Octobrem 4000 personarum; quod et Regimini  
authenticis documentis comprobavi, ejusque bene-  
placitum lucratus sum.

Nunc vero fateor ingenuè, nil tam cordi meo  
esse, vir clarissime, quam aggregari instituto tuo;  
innotuit enim mihi, etiam extraneum hujus  
instituti membrum posse fieri, dummodo in hoc  
strenuam navaverit operam. Confido ergo bene-  
volentiaë tuæ, Illustris Magnifice Domine, me  
quoque posse concedi participem fieri celeberrimi  
hujus Instituti; quod humillimè pro mei personâ  
exoro; et hanc singularem gratiam, per favorabiles  
litteras illustris magnifici Domini, cupidissimè  
expectabo. Interim pro Instituto submitto 10  
aureos nummos, sive 5 guineas; quas enixè  
suscipere rogo.

“ Ex quo distantia regni, marisque incommoda,  
impediant animum meum, ad personam tui,  
Illustris Magnifice Domine, aliquando conspicien-  
dum; cuperem minimum saltem effigie ipsius  
frui, si ita placebit me ipsâ condonari. Frustulum  
quoque panni coloris hujus, in quo plurimum sibi



complaces, Vir Nobilissime! in tesseram grati animi tui affectuosè susciperam. Vellem etenim Jenneriano nomini publicum gratum facere, in his qui ejusmodi coloris vestitu ipsâ die natalitiorum tuorum uniuscujusque anni usi fuerint, ac Instituto tuo promptas dederint manus.—Dies ista solemnis mihi semper existet, quousque vitæ hujus perfruar aurâ.—Jam nihil superest, quam ut, Vir Clarissime, benevaleas.—Hæc optat

“ ILLUSTRIS MAGNIFICI DOMINI,

“ Cliens ac Servus humillimus,

“ JOHANNES REYSS.

“ Dabam Machovii, in Gallitia Orientali, prope Sandamiriam, in Circulo Rzescoviensi, die 8vâ Aprilis, 1805.”

### TRANSLATION.

“ JOHN REYSS to the great and illustrious EDWARD JENNER, &c. &c. &c. the celebrated Exterminator of that fatal Disease, the Small-pox.

“ I LATELY procured from a friend a Silver Vase, purchased at a public sale at Dantzic. When I examined its form and workmanship, and found engraved on it the name of “ *Jenner, the 9th of March, 1745,*” I instantly experienced



the greatest pleasure ; and seriously resolved, that what had probably been alienated from the repository of his very worthy ancestors, by some unfortunate event, should be restored as soon as possible.

“ Nothing is wanting, to crown my wishes, and to complete my joy, but that, on the 17th of May, the auspicious day of your birth, this small token of my esteem for you, most excellent Sir, should be placed, where, in a festive and convivial hour, as the goblet, decorated with the glory of your name, goes round, the benevolent Society of your friends, or rather the friends of humanity, may alternately drink your health, long life and prosperity,—with loud acclamations, and shouts of applause.

“ Let me therefore address you, Sir, in those words, in which the whole world, as it were, with one consent, resounds your praise ; and latest posterity shall acknowledge you their Benefactor. Accept these testimonials of the great honour and renown you have acquired, and a sure pledge of your wide-extended fame ; and bear me also in remembrance, who, although far remote in space, am nevertheless attached to you by the most sincere affection ; and burn with an ardent desire to be connected with you in the



exercise of your art, and in promoting the object of your institution.

“ Permit me, Sir, here to lay before you an account of the rise and progress of my labours in vaccination; which, I have not the least doubt, will be extremely grateful to a heart like yours, so zealous in the cause of humanity.— In the year 1799, I first received notice of the happy discovery of the great and illustrious JENNER; and instantly feeling a fervent desire of gaining information concerning so beneficial a practice, thought it my duty to exert every effort in my power to obtain further instructions; till, in the year 1800, your most excellent work appeared, translated from the English language into German, and published at Leipsic. At the same time I endeavoured to procure genuine vaccine matter as soon as possible; and was at length so fortunate as to succeed, but with great difficulty, having received some from London, by way of Dantzic.

“ Aided by this supply, I commenced my practice the latter end of autumn 1801, by inoculating eight children; and having fully convinced myself of the utility of the operation, and that it was well founded, I carefully preserved matter for the ensuing year.



“In the mean time, M. La Fontaine, a man who has deserved well of the republic of letters, began to print at Warsaw, a work entitled “The Diary of Health;” in which he laboured much to propagate unfavourable opinions concerning my practice; and, as it were, to strangle that most innocent art in its very birth. It is scarcely possible to express, what obstacles and impediments these prejudices of his, which were probably derived from certain authors at Berlin, opposed to the further progress of vaccination. I therefore exerted myself the more diligently and strenuously, in order to eradicate the prejudicial notions on the subject, which prevailed in these kingdoms, from the public mind. Sensible, however, that more dependance was placed on practice than on books and literary altercations, I prepared myself for executing this task, from the 14th of June 1802, through the province, at its own expense; and inoculated 1433 children of the poor with the cow-pock; offering premiums as an encouragement, on account of the mortality of the small-pox, which was then raging on every side.

“For the truth of this statement I appeal to the Warsaw gazettes, in which a testimonial was inserted by the synagogue of the Jews of Tarnobrzeg; where, out of sixty children, whose parents would not suffer them to be vaccinated,



twenty died, and two became blind; while, out of seventy-one, whom I vaccinated, although they used to eat together, play together, and sleep together, not one died, or received the infection of the small-pox.

“ I therefore published, in the Warsaw and Cracow journals, on the 3d of March 1803, an account of my practice during the year 1802; which produced such an impression on the minds of the people, and particularly those of the lower class, that they eagerly flocked to me with their children, whom they submitted to vaccination. At length, in the year 1803, his Imperial Majesty, by his public letters patent, gave orders for the inoculation of all children throughout the whole kingdom.

“ To accomplish this salutary purpose, I undertook one section on my own account; in which I that year inoculated 1214 children, and 1314 in the year 1804. The amount of my inoculations for the three years, during the period of only five successive months in each year, beginning in May and ending in October, is 4000 persons; which I have proved to Government by authentic documents, and been so happy as to receive the most gracious marks of its approbation.



“ But after all I must ingenuously confess, that I have nothing so much at heart as to be incorporated with your celebrated institution; into which, I am informed, a foreigner may be elected, provided he has strenuously exerted himself in this cause. I therefore rely on your benevolence for a participation of its honours.— This singular favour I humbly entreat, and shall anxiously expect it by a letter from your own hand.— In the mean while, I transmit to the Society a subscription of five guineas, of which I earnestly solicit their acceptance.

“ As the distance of this country, and the inconveniences attending a voyage, are obstacles to my ever seeing you, according to my inclination, I wish at least, Sir, to be in possession of your portrait, if you will be so kind as to present me with it. If, Sir, you would also send, as a token of regard, a bit of cloth of the colour which you are most fond of wearing, I should thankfully receive it; for it is my desire, that those who have displayed the greatest zeal in support of your system, should be dressed in the same uniform on your birthday, and perform an act of public gratitude to the name of JENNER.— That day shall ever be a solemn festival to me, while I exist and enjoy the breath of life.—



It now only remains that I bid you adieu, assuring you of the good wishes of,

“ Great and illustrious Sir,

“ Your most obedient, humble servant,

“ JOHN REYSS.”

Makow, April 8, 1805.

Such is the homage paid to our celebrated countryman by the learned, liberal, and enlightened part of mankind, in all nations ; and he may well endure the scoffs of the ignorant, illiterate, and profligate part of the community, when assured of the affection and veneration of the wise and good. He has attained an enviable state of happiness ; and might be too proud of the honours he has received, did not some malignant scribbler occasionally remind him—that he is but a man.

Men of talents and respectability are ambitious of his friendship ; the seats of medical science are emulous to enrol his name ; and potentates to pay him their tribute of applause. The following is a copy of a letter addressed to him by the President of the United States of America, dated May 14th, 1806.

“ SIR,

“ I have received the copy of the Evidence at Large, respecting the discovery of Vaccine Inocula-



tion, which you have been pleased to send me, and for which I return you my thanks. Having been among the early converts in this part of the globe, to its efficacy, I took an early part in recommending it to my countrymen. I avail myself of this occasion of rendering you my portion of the tribute of gratitude, due to you from the whole human race.

“ Medicine has never before produced any improvement of such utility. Harvey’s discovery of the circulation of the blood, was a beautiful addition to our knowledge of the animal economy ; but on a review of the practice of medicine, before and since that epoch, I do not see any great amelioration which has been derived from that discovery.

“ You have erased from the calendar one of the greatest of human afflictions. Yours is the comfortable reflection, that mankind can never forget you have lived.

“ Future generations will know only by history, that the small-pox has ever existed ; and that it has been extirpated by you. Accept the most fervent wishes for your health and happiness, and assurances of the greatest respect and consideration.

“ THOMAS JEFFERSON.”



The treatment which Dr. Jenner has experienced from certain members of society, resembles that experienced by Harvey, and by all the benefactors of mankind. But he surpasses Harvey as much in the envy he encounters, as he surpasses him in glory. Those, who so ill requite a benefactor of the whole world, have their reward in their disgrace, in the stings of conscience, and in the contempt and indignation of every honest man. Some may think me too severe in my animadversions, but

—take it as a rule,  
No creature smarts so little as a fool.

Let us, however, quit an unpleasant subject, and contemplate the bright prospect which opens to our view, in this improvement of the healing art; which multiplies the number, augments the happiness, and ameliorates the condition of mankind. Let the public determine, whether we ought to coincide in opinion with Dr. Moseley, Mr. Birch, and Mr Lipscombe, that this practice is a pollution; or with the late pious and humane prelate, whose letter is inserted in a former part of this work, that it is a providential discovery, for the preservation of the human race.

So far was this great and good man from despising vaccination, like Mr. Birch and his col-



leagues, that he followed the example of the most illustrious characters in the British empire; and honoured the Royal Jennerian Society with his patronage and support. I trust, therefore, that the grand object of the friends of humanity will be ultimately accomplished, in the extermination of the small-pox; and that while we erect a monument of national gratitude to the name of Nelson, we shall also erect a monument of national gratitude to the name of JENNER.

THE END.



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