

Copy of the report to the secretary of state for the home department, from the National Vaccine Establishment : dated 18th May 1820.

Contributors

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London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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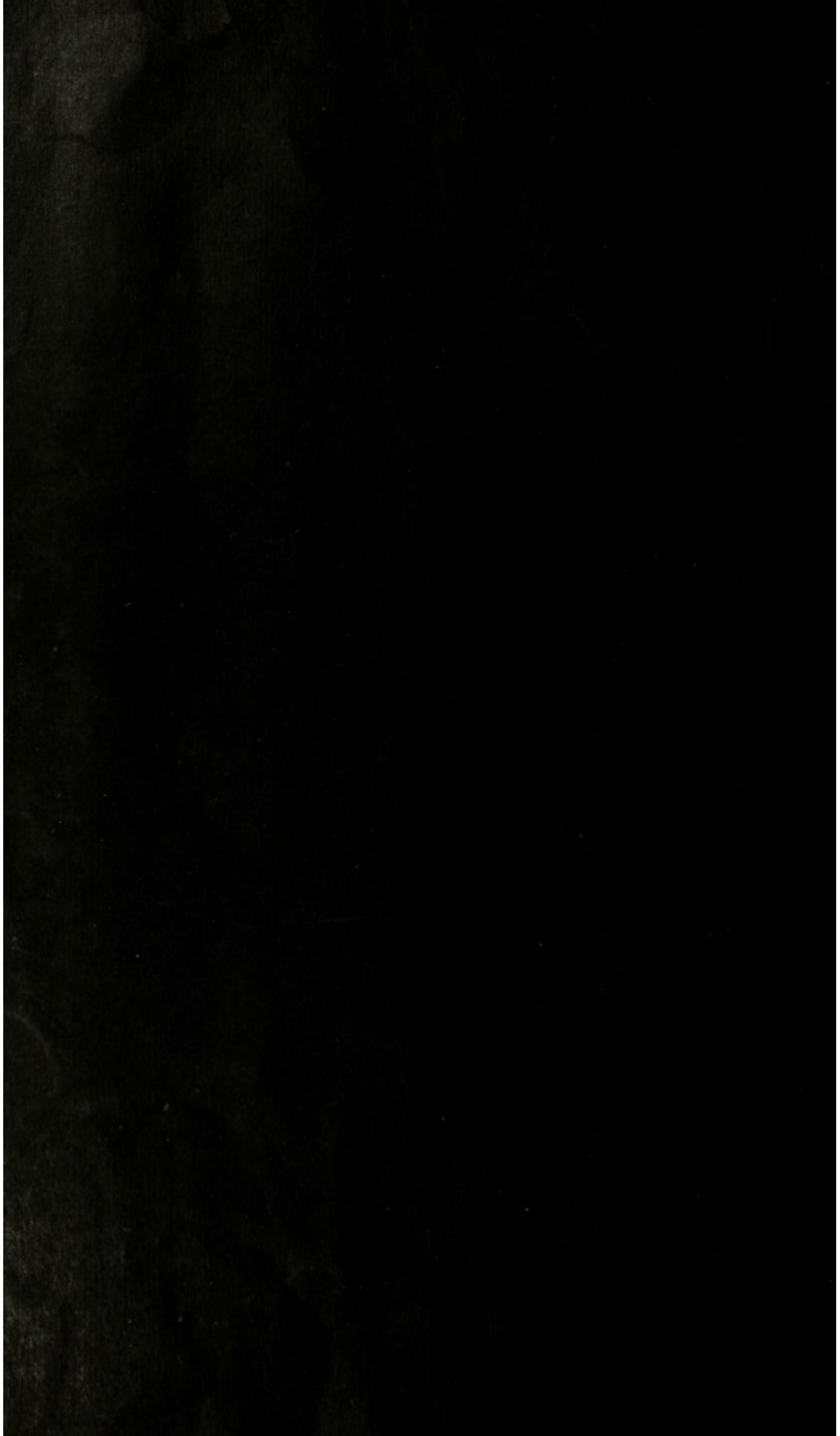
COPY OF THE

REPORT to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from the

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT;
dated 18th May 1820.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 September 1820.*

*James Watson, M.D. Registrar
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of the Royal College of Surgeons*



COPY OF THE
REPORT to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from the
NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT; dated 18th May 1820.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT,
&c. &c. &c.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,
Percy-street, 18th May 1820.

MY LORD,

THE Board of the NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT have the honour to report to Your Lordship, That the number of persons vaccinated during the last year, in London and its vicinity, exceeds the number of any former year; it amounts to 8,957. Within the same year, 51,005 charges of Vaccine Lymph have been distributed to the Public.

An abundant, an unceasing supply, which could only be afforded by such an Institution as that which the Board have the honour to direct, has enabled us to answer the earnest demands for Vaccine Lymph, from various parts of Great Britain and Ireland,—from Jamaica, St. Vincent's, Dominica, Tortola, Grenada, Nevis, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Christopher's, Demerara, Hayti, and the Cape of Good Hope.

Lymph has also been occasionally requested from the Continent of Europe, and charges were lately transmitted to Hamburgh and Hanover.

Our correspondents in Great Britain and Ireland have reported to this Board, that the number of persons vaccinated by them, during the year 1819, amounts to 74,940; forming, with the number vaccinated in London and its vicinity, a total of 83,897 persons in one year; yet many send no returns, or the number would be considerably greater.

From these facts the Board think themselves entitled to conclude, that the practice of Vaccination in His Majesty's dominions, continues to advance, and therefore that the confidence of Medical Practitioners, and the confidence of the Public in that practice, remain unshaken; notwithstanding many unfavourable occurrences, with which it will be our duty to acquaint your Lordship.

The reports transmitted to this Board likewise warrant the conclusion, that wherever Small Pox Inoculation is abandoned, and Vaccination exclusively favoured or commanded, the most striking illustrations of the value of the *Jennerian* Discovery are uniformly afforded; for, in addition to those places mentioned in former Reports, in which Small Pox is now unknown, the Board have received information that no case of that disease has occurred since the year 1804, at Shottisham in Norfolk; nor since the year 1817, in the city of Gloucester. The boroughs of Clonmell and Newton Limavady in Ireland, and Mothvey in Carmarthenshire, with the whole country for twenty miles around it, are reported to have completely succeeded in the extirpation of the Small Pox; and in the Island of Guernsey, only one solitary case of that fatal distemper is known to have occurred during the last year.

The career of Vaccination appears, however, to have been less brilliant in its native country, than in some parts of the Continent of Europe, where the practice of it is enforced by legal enactments, and Inoculation for Small Pox is prohibited by severe penalties. Under such regulations, it is affirmed, that the Small Pox has ceased to exist in Denmark for the last eight years; and that the knowledge of this fact has now induced his Danish Majesty to proclaim the same Decrees in his West India Colonies.

The Board are also informed, by a most interesting communication from Doctor De Carro of Vienna, that similar Decrees have been published in the Austrian Dominions, and that Small Pox is now confined to that portion of the poor who by concealment contrive to evade the Imperial Ordinances. He announces, that since the year 1799, when he gave the first example to the Continent of Europe by vaccinating his two elder sons, he has never seen a single case to weaken his confidence in the efficacy of that practice.

An important Letter, together with a Treatise on this subject, has also been transmitted to the Board from Dr. Krauss, an intelligent physician, who is charged with the superintendence of Vaccination in the circle of Rezat in Bavaria. He affirms, that in that circle, containing half a million of people, Small Pox has never occurred since the year 1807.

If these facts be correctly reported to us, they would appear to afford convincing proof, that the extinction of Small Pox is entirely within our own power.

The testimonies of some of our Correspondents in this country, are by no means so favourable. They concur in showing, that great numbers of persons who had been vaccinated, have been subsequently seized with a disease presenting all the essential characters of Small Pox; but that in the great majority of such cases, the disease has been of comparatively short duration, unattended by symptoms of danger. In several of these cases, however, the malady has been prolonged to its ordinary period; and in eight reported cases it has proved fatal.

It appears to us to be fairly established, that the disposition in the vaccinated to be thus affected by the contagion of Small Pox, does not depend on the time that has elapsed after Vaccination; since some persons have been so affected who had recently been vaccinated; whilst others, who had been vaccinated 18 and 20 years, have been inoculated, and fairly exposed to the same contagion with impunity.

Nor is it undeserving of remark, that whilst cases of Small Pox in the vaccinated have frequently been reported to us, from some parts of the kingdom remote from the Metropolis, no cases of a similar nature are known to have happened in other districts equally populous. Very intelligent surgeons in the different counties of Norfolk, Devonshire, Middlesex, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, who together have vaccinated more than 30,000 persons, assert that they never saw or heard of Small Pox in any one of their vaccinated Patients.

But no assertions of individuals, however respectable, are so well calculated to direct the judgment of your Lordship as the Registers of public charities.

The practice of Vaccination was begun in the Small Pox Hospital of London in the year 1799, soon after the promulgation of Dr. Jenner's Discovery, and has been continued to the present day. In the last annual report it is stated by Dr. Ashburner, "That the benefit of Vaccination has been extended within the year to 3,297 persons; that one only of the 46,662 cases mentioned in former reports, has been since affected with the varioloid eruption occurring after Vaccination."

At the Foundling Hospital, Vaccination was introduced 19 years ago; and we are informed by Dr. Stanger, that only two cases of disease, bearing any resemblance to Small Pox, have hitherto occurred in the vaccinated of that Institution.

Mr. Mac Gregor assures us, that in the great assemblage of the sons and daughters of soldiers who are brought up at the Royal Military Asylum, no case, even of the mildest Small Pox, has ever occurred after Vaccination.

Under the immediate direction of the National Vaccine Establishment, more than 60,000 persons have now been vaccinated in London and its vicinity, and of this large number only five are reported to have been subsequently affected with Small Pox; although positive orders are given at every station, to report all such cases as are even suspected.

This success in London, where the Vaccinated are continually exposed to the contagion of Small Pox, is strong evidence in favour of the practice adopted and inculcated by this Board, and induces us to believe that a departure from that practice is one source of the evil which has prevailed in different parts of the Kingdom.

The great principle of that practice is to affect the constitution of each individual very completely with the Vaccine Disease; and the Board have thought it right to direct that Lymph should never be employed from any vesicle in which the slightest irregularity or imperfection can be observed; nor even from a perfect vesicle after the ariola is formed; that two punctures be made in each arm, in order to secure at least three perfect vesicles: that one vesicle on each arm, should be left unopened, and the Lymph be suffered to be absorbed or desiccate. That if the vesicles be accidentally broken, or much injured, or if they present any irregularity, the patient should be carefully re-vaccinated as at first.

From extensive experience and numerous reports, the Board have become most earnestly desirous that more, rather than fewer vesicles should be produced. We think it especially wrong to confide in one vesicle, and highly imprudent to open all; but no treatment will be effective in certain constitutions; for twenty-one cases of Small Pox occurring after Small Pox, have been reported to us within the last twelve months, three of which were fatal.

We have regarded it, my Lord, as one of our first duties, to consider attentively the different cases of Small Pox after Vaccination, as they have been transmitted to us. We have endeavoured to investigate them, free from the influence of theory, and solely intent on the discovery of truth: And when we take into our view the immense number of the vaccinated, when compared with the reported failures;—when we reflect on certain peculiarities of constitution, that will exempt some individuals from all common laws;—when we think on the ignorance and carelessness which the Vaccinator has but too often betrayed;—when we recollect the mild form which Small Pox is reported to have very generally, though not universally, assumed in the vaccinated;—We cannot hesitate to assert, that our conviction in favour of the experiment of Universal Vaccination is unshaken.

It is a painful duty for us to state to your Lordship, that 712 persons are reported, by the Bills of Mortality of London, to have died of Small Pox within the last year; and that the ravages committed by this disease, in many other cities, and in many parts of the country, have also been great; yet we believe them to be fairly attributable to the neglect of universal Vaccination, and the partial but too frequent practice of Small Pox Inoculation.

J. LATHAM, M. D. President.

<i>Arthur Daniel Stone,</i>	} CENSORS of the Royal College of Physicians.
<i>Robert Bree,</i>	
<i>Edward Thomas Munro,</i>	
<i>Geo. L. Tuthill.</i>	

David Dundas,
MASTER of the Royal College of Surgeons.

<i>Thompson Forster,</i>	} GOVERNORS.
<i>Everard Home,</i>	

By Order of the Board,

James Hervey, M. D.
Registrar.

It is a privilege to have to state to your Lordship that the measures proposed
experiment of Universal Vaccination is unobjectionable.

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