

Vaccination viewed as a sanitary measure with modes and facts for establishing its future permanent efficiency : being an address to the opponents of this small-pox preventive process / by J. Hands, formerly pupil under Dr. E. Jenner, the original discoverer of cow-pox efficacy.

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VACCINATION

VIEWED AS A SANITARY MEASURE WITH
MODES AND FACTS FOR ESTABLISHING ITS
FUTURE PERMANENT EFFICIENCY,

BEING AN

ADDRESS

TO THE OPPONENTS OF THIS SMALL-POX
PREVENTIVE PROCESS,

BY

J. HANDS, M.R.C.S., F.P.S., &c., &c.

FORMERLY PUPIL UNDER

DR. E. JENNER,

THE ORIGINAL DISCOVERER OF COW-POX
EFFICACY.

In answer to the memorial presented, sometime back, to the Privy Council, by certain medical men, and also in response to the varied public opinions, relative to the injury from, and the decay in, the efficacy and utility of vaccination, we would suggest, (before people come to a conclusion on the subject) that they should look at the matter in question, through a few facts, which we purpose to place before them, as to the cause of this degeneracy, in the present results from vaccination. When studying this practise, under the superintendance of Dr. E. Jenner, some fifty years ago, we remember, that he was very particular, as to the subject he vaccinated, and, he was still more circumspect, as to the person, from whom he procured the virus, to

effect this purpose. He (Dr. J.) was thus careful, in order, not only to insure its efficacy, but to preserve its purity, or rather activity, for the purpose of future vaccination. If, the patient presented for the operation, had any unhealthy appearance, (especially on the skin or scalp), Dr. Jenner would always decline to vaccinate, until the child was well. If, it transpired, in the course of going through the infection, that the infant, should show symptoms of, or become the subject, of other maladies, however simple, or, if the pustule was not *healthy* looking, or well *formed*, from such an individual, he never took virus, for the object of vaccination. Those, we are sorry to state, who followed after Dr. Jenner, have not observed these very necessary rules of conduct; but have (from haste, carelessness, or what is much worse, from ignorance,) used any, and every kind of cow-pox matter. The pursuit of this erroneous mode of practise, is one of the chief sources of the deterioration, in the *potency* of vaccination.) There are still other causes, that interfere with preservation from the horrors of small-pox. For instance, we have known and heard of some medical men, using virus (for vaccinating an infant) taken from the arm of a person, who had become the subject of cow-pox, for the second time. The result of course, was, that the new individual had a spurious or unsafe pustule, and as dissimilar, (as far as real value or efficacy goes) to the pock produced from genuine and effective matter, as the false is, to the real gem, and would have been as readily detected, had it been presented to Dr. Jenner—who was fond of likening the pure cow-pox pustule, to a pearl, placed upon a blooming rose-leaf. Unfortunately, this deteriorated condition of the virus, so produced and procured, is carried through countless thousands, being in a degree, probably, further modified by other contingencies, in its progress through the people, like a plant grown, in different soils. Further, another cause (and perhaps the chief) of the failure, in the desired quality of the process of vaccination, at the present period, is the long term, that has elapsed, since the *true virus* was obtained from the cow. Some men it is true, have vaccinated the animal from the human arm, and from this source, obtained (as they thought) a pure virus. Here, they lay



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under a mistake—"What we sow we reap." The matter, so employed as a protective, was as useless as before their procedure. One medical man, some time since, inoculated a cow with small-pox matter, and from the pustule so produced, he took his virus, thinking he had cow-pox lymph. He did not at the time reflect, that the soil in which we plant seed, though, it may in a degree modify the produce—will not turn a potatoe into a turnip. Of course, the animal so treated, had small-pox, as did the patients, upon whom he employed the matter so procured. Each person was inoculated, not vaccinated, in the sense we employ these terms.

If, in the future, we wish to have pure and effective cow-pox matter, we must begin *de novo*, and pursue the same path, that Dr. Jenner did. In the first place, the young cow must receive the desired virus *fresh*, from the pustular heel, of an otherwise healthy horse, and the child, must be vaccinated (with lymph so produced) from the pustule on the cow. When this circumstance, is again effected, we shall very seldom, if ever, hear of small-pox after vaccination, especially, if we insisted, (as they do, or did in Russia) on re-vaccination every five years. To ensure, in every case perfect safety, and to drive the horrible scourge—small-pox—out of the kingdom, this custom is no doubt correct, for, as the whole of the body often becomes changed, and is totally renewed very frequently, its earlier impressions, must to a degree subside.

("John Bernaulli states, that a man loses two-thirds of his body every year, and in *eight* years, his substance is renewed twenty-four times.") This practise of re-vaccination, would ensure or preserve the vaccine, as well as the small-pox subject. Most people are unaware, that we can have small-pox *twice*; but this result, very frequently takes place (in different parts of a kingdom), and even a *third* time. A gentleman, a few days ago, mentioned a case to us; and Dr. Jenner reports the circumstance of a man in Cheltenham, who had small-pox a third time, under which attack he died. In regard to the safety of the *earlier patients* of Dr. Jenner, we have vaccinated, (and for experiment inoculated), again and again, some of these subjects, including ourselves, but, we could never produce any effect, by

the inoculation or re-vaccination, beyond, a very slight inflamed point in the arm. We would here observe, that the cow, is subject to two kinds of pock-pustules. The *genuine* appears on the teats, in the form of vesicles, of a *bluish* colour. These vesicles, are elevated, at the margin, and depressed in the centre, and surrounded by inflammation. The fluid they contain is as clear, as a dew-drop. The animals become indisposed, under the infection (*as should the human subject*), and the milk is very much lessened; on the contrary, the *spurious* cow-pox pustule, is white. Dr. Jenner considered, that it was of the utmost importance, to distinguish the genuine, from the spurious variety, (which latter is infectious), since, a want of such discrimination, would cause an idea, of security against small-pox.

It was particularly marked down by Dr. Jenner, that when persons caught cow-pox, from the animal (through having abrasions on the fingers of the milkers), or were vaccinated from the human subject, while the virus was in an *active state*, they were rendered secure from small-pox or variolous contagion, while others, who received the infection of the cow-pox, when it had undergone decomposition, (or when the pustule was decaying or beginning to subside), they were still susceptible of small-pox. Dr. Jenner proved, that farriers and others, who received infection from the pock on the horse's heel, were generally deprived of the susceptibility of small-pox. Cow-pox may be retarded, or even entirely prevented, or rendered useless, by any other disorder, such as dentition, or any complaint attended with fever, or by extreme cold.

But to return; we remember well, when we were young, that nearly every third person we met, was a frightful object to behold, from the ravages of small-pox. They were seamed, pitted, and yellow-scared, in a terrible manner, and very frequently were blind. Such cases have now disappeared for the last forty years. What has caused these changes, and preserved the beautiful features, we can now every moment contemplate? The answer must be, *vaccination*.

It has been stated by certain doctors—and of course echoed by the crowd—that vaccination induces, in the human system, many disorders and diseases. If we employ

our reasoning faculties, and compare one thing or process with another, and trace effects down through nature's long chain of causation, we shall discover, that the above supposition is a vulgar error. Nature's laws are always *permanent*, and nothing ever did, or ever can, turn them aside. *It is our ignorance of how events transpire, or are developed, that make us think to the contrary.* If, out of one thing could spring or grow a different, or rather, a distinct object, all creatures and vegetation, and their belongings, must soon pass away, as far as, their present appearances are concerned. By the accident, anomaly, or influence, of certain unions, we sometimes get a variety, but, the results stop, at a given point, as we see with the mule, relative to animals and plants. No one ever produced a pear, from an apple, or a cow, from a horse, or any of their relations, or kindred.

The above reasoning will apply to the symptoms, disorders, and developments, appertaining to a complaint. Each malady has its distinct characteristics, and no other. No one ever saw scarlet fever induced by exposure to measles. The disease called itch, may bring forth its own varieties, but never produced cow-pox, nor any of its symptoms. Vaccination is not catching, showing that it cannot be associated with contagious eruptions. No infection is convertible, the one into the other. Everything partakes of its own *distinct* belongings or relations to itself, but develops no other. You may again, as of old, produce all the varieties of roses from the common brier, but you could never get the laurel or broom shrubs from this source. Even the parasites of plants and animals keep to the same species. The smut of wheat will never be found on any other plant, nor can the epizozæ or entozozæ (external or internal, animals or vermin) of one creature ever *naturally* be found in or upon that of another. Thus, every plant and every animal will, like disease, invariably give off certain qualities, and never anything else but that which results from their germinal structures. If disease resulted from vaccination, as reported, each person operated upon (comparing one thing with another) ought to be affected alike, yet, out of fifty individuals undergoing the process of

vaccination from the same patient, only one, out of the number will have an inordinately inflamed arm (often produced by a foul lancet) which readily yields to water dressing. The other forty-nine persons will not suffer beyond the usual result from this infection. Therefore it must be evident, that the *primary* cause of the disturbance in the system, of the single case, must have sprang from the condition of the patient himself, at the period of his being subjected to the action of the virus. The complaint, or mischief, thus showing itself, in the exceptional case, was dormant in the body. The vaccination merely acted as a proximate exciting cause, rousing up the sleeping malady, which disorder, would have made its appearance from any other application, capable of calling the hidden ailment into activity. All children are liable to very many skin diseases, scarcely one escapes having some of them. If any of these external eruptions occur after vaccination, they are foolishly attributed to it; if before this process, then they are said to be caused by some other contingency. To illustrate this subject further, people after throwing themselves into a certain position, will suddenly discover that they have rheumatism of some part of the body, or they may induce by the movement, acute pain under the ribs, denoting pleurisy, &c. Persons so affected, are apt to exclaim, that the twisting produced the ailment, but the reflecting individual will announce to them, that the wrench merely showed, (by producing pain), that the malady was previously in the system, and owed its first beginning or origin, to some primary cause, not always traceable. We are often the subjects of congestion of certain organs, which condition will remain quiescent, until some disturbing influence ensues, which impression rouses up the sensibility of the system to throw off the enemy. It sometimes does this, by inducing uneasiness or pains, (which pains), indicate the presence of disorder, and also denotes the *healing efforts of nature*, to get rid of the oppression. Without pain, we should never know our danger, nor could we ever shake off the maladies and diseases to which we are subject. We would further illustrate our proposition, relative to the fallacy of disorders, ensuing from vaccination, by comparing its results to the

constant answering character and effects, from the application of other matters to the body. Thus, had we given the fifty persons, before alluded to, an emetic, each would have been made sick; had a poison been employed, each would have suffered very nearly alike, according to the nature of the venom. Again, appealing to the senses; each, will respond alike to similar appliances, as for instance, every individual would bleed, if punctured by a lancet. Had sugar and aloes been presented alternately, all, without exception, would have exclaimed, that the one was bitter, and the other sweet; showing the effects upon each, to be alike, and creating similar reactions. We have most decidedly, every reason to firmly believe, that no ill consequences ever arise from artificial cow-pox; on the contrary, many who had been suffering from certain disorders, (before the infection) have been incited, through its agency, to get rid of their old maladies, by inducing a change in the system. We ourselves (instead of operating) have cured *nævus maturnus*, or mother's mark, by vaccinating the parts affected. Further, it is not generally known, that the distemper of dogs, is cured, and prevented by vaccinating the animal, on the inner side of the thigh. A contrast is offered to our experience, from the effects induced by small-pox. This disease, often leaves behind it, a *pre-disposition* to inflammatory complaints, particularly to ophthalmia and visceral inflammations, but, most especially those of the chest, and frequently excites scrofula into action, which might otherwise, have lain dormant in the body. It would appear, that vaccination, acts on the system more effectually, than inoculation. In 1829, we vaccinated certain patients in "Edgware," who were infected with small-pox; by so doing, we arrested the further progress of this latter complaint, which died out, and the cow-pox proceeded onwards to pustulation. The pock was, of course, *modified*, which is always the case, when produced after inoculation or re-vaccination.

The report of the above cases, will be found in the *Lancet* of that period.

The present decrying of vaccination, by certain medical men, and others, is merely a revival of that censure, which

ensued, when Dr. Jenner first brought his discovery into notice.

Being a very timid character, he often smarted under these rude and false attacks, and, sometimes used to say, that he could have wished, that the disclosure had fallen upon a fitter champion, or, on one, more combative than himself. Some of the parties of that period, went so far as to state, that after vaccination, people had horns growing out of the forehead, and many other such absurdities. It was a wonder, that people ever partook of the animal, if they thought its belongings were so terrible. We recollect, that Dr. Jenner, in answer to a scurrilous pamphlet, wrote the following distich :—

“It never struck you, when you penned it,
How much a little truth would mend it.”

We will sum up our paper, with a few of Dr. Jenner's statistics relative to vaccination :—

“It was stated, that those who caught small-pox naturally, not having been vaccinated or inoculated, 1 in 3 died; those, who were inoculated with variolous matter, 1 in 11 died; those, who caught small-pox a second time, that is, after inoculation or otherwise, 1 in 33 died; those, who caught small-pox after vaccination, 1 in 500 died. There is no well authenticated case on record, of a person dying from simply being vaccinated.”

We may here state, that the works by Dr. Jenner, in which many of the circumstances, we have alluded, to are recorded, have been out of print, for many years, and probably, were never read by the present generation; but, our friend, Mr. S. Jenner, of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, (who, with ourselves,) was a pupil under his uncle, Dr. E. Jenner, can corroborate many of the foregoing facts.

Trusting, that the above remarks, may cause people to re-consider the subject of vaccination, and accord to it, the just dues it deserves, is the earnest hope of

J. HANDS.

80, The Grove, Hammersmith.

June 1st, 1871.

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