

Anti-vacc. veracities : a commentary / by Arthur F. Hopkirk.

Contributors

Hopkirk, Arthur F.

Publication/Creation

London : Arthur F. Hopkirk, [1899?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hym3w8m2>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANTI-VACC. VERACITIES

A COMMENTARY.

BY

ARTHUR F. HOPKIRK, M.D., Jena.

“Lying lips are abomination to the Lord.”—

PROVERBS xii., 22.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR,
AT
111, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

PRICE 1d. POST FREE 1½d.

ANTI-VACC. VERACITIES

A COMMENTARY

WELLCOME LIBRARY
General Collections
P
1746



22502807157

PREFACE.

The incalculable value of vaccination has been so frequently and so thoroughly vindicated, more especially by such able writers and careful students of the question as Doctors McVail and Lotz, that any further effort in that direction is hardly called for. Still it may be as well to point out that vaccination has never been properly put to the test except in Germany, and in Germany, it has come out triumphant. Yet the solid, hard, matter-of-fact experience of Germany, is pooh-poohed by our omniscient legislators.

According to our Registrar General 12,280 persons died in England from small-pox in the decennium 1881 to 1890, an average of 1,228 per annum. The corresponding average for 1885 in Germany was 116, and in 1896, only 10 people succumbed to small-pox throughout the whole German Empire. These figures speak for themselves, and I have not "cooked," "dished" or "manipulated" them.

With regard to the fifty odd maladies and misfortunes, said by anti-vaccinators to arise from vaccination, I can only ask, "Why is there any German nation left?" If vaccination were only one-tenth as pestiferous as its opponents would have us believe, Germans should have been vaccinated off the face of the earth, years ago.

These things being so, the object of the following brochure will be to explain in a manner as far as possible, "understood of the people" the means and methods employed by

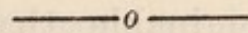
the chief opponents of the immortal Jenner in their vain endeavour to bring discredit on the greatest boon ever conferred on suffering humanity by medical science.

Ousted at every point, driven from pillar to post, anti-vaccinists, now-a-days, assert that Germany's extraordinary immunity from small-pox is due to improved sanitation. There might be something in the argument if small-pox were a "filth disease," but unfortunately for the anti-vaccinists it does not happen to be one.

In reality there is no case against vaccination, but a terrible one against the anti-vaccinists.

A.F.H.

ANTI-VACC. VERACITIES.



When the report of the Imperial German Vaccination Commission was published in 1885, it was at once apparent to every rationally minded and unbiassed student of the question that, as far as the strictly scientific world was concerned, anti-vaccinism had received its death-blow. And yet, strange as it may appear, the opposition to vaccination amongst laymen, more especially in England, was in nowise affected by the clear, concise and logical conclusions of the German medical experts who drew up that Report after carefully debating every important point connected with the subject. As a matter of fact, anti-vaccinism has of late years, as far as England is concerned, been undoubtedly on the increase, and, consequently, the question naturally arises, how has this state of things been brought about ?

To anyone thoroughly acquainted with the literature of the subject, the above question presents no difficulty at all. Such a one would, in all probability, return an answer more accurate than parliamentary. Unfortunately, the average citizen has but little time, and alas, too frequently, less inclination to consider the matter from a critical point of view ; and hence the amount of misunderstanding, nay ignorance, which is prevalent on this one subject alone, is simply appalling.

An accurate answer to the question formulated above can in reality only be arrived at by a careful examination into the ways, means and methods of the leading anti-vaccinists. That there is no necessity to take into consideration the writings of the earlier opponents of Jenner, goes without saying, because as Dr. McVail has clearly shown, the effusions of Jenner's contemporary antagonists are only noteworthy as being indescribably ludicrous, or, like Moseley's "Lues Bovilla," so utterly abominable that their "own filthiness protects them from rehearsal." Again, of the modern speakers, writers, agitators, etc. against vaccination, of whom it may be truly said "their name is legion for they are many," only a very few are really worthy of notice. Alphabetically arranged, the only members of the "legion" whose works need be discussed, are Böing, Creighton, Crookshank, Keller, Milnes, Oidtmann, Phelps, Tebb, A. Vogt, Wallace and White; and it will speedily be made evident to every intelligent reader that it is not necessary to go very deeply into the writings of the authors in question, to be fully convinced that they all work on the same principle, and are, in fact, all tarred with the same brush. These people are, however, so mixed up in their great system of folly, fallacy, and falsehood, that it is not always possible to take them alphabetically.

With regard to Dr. Böing,* two instances of his method of treating statistics will suffice to show how an honest and upright man may be corrupted by the fad-fiend. In the official returns of the Statistical Office of the town of Chemnitz, in Saxony, it is clearly shown that, at the time of the

*The writer does not for one moment intend to insult Drs. Böing or Oidtmann by putting them in the same category with the Creightons, Milneses, Tebbs, etc.

epidemic in 1870-71, 1.61 per cent. of the vaccinated persons, and 57.63 per cent. of the unvaccinated, were attacked by small-pox. Dr. Böing, however, in a work published by him in 1882, actually had the audacity to assert that the percentage morbidity amongst the unvaccinated was really 25.7, a figure which he had obtained by coolly reckoning as unvaccinated the 4,652 persons who had already had small-pox. Equally significant is his treatment of the Bavarian statistics for the same period. He informs us that because 36 out of every 1,000 Bavarian children escaped vaccination during the first year of life, therefore, when the epidemic of 1871 broke out, only 96 per cent. of the population were vaccinated, the remaining 4 per cent being unvaccinated. Now the number of cases of small-pox amongst the vaccinated and unvaccinated, respectively, was, roughly speaking, as 96 to 4; hence, concludes Dr. Böing, "the protective power of vaccination in Bavaria equals 0." Unfortunately, however, for Dr. Böing's argument, those children who are not vaccinated in the first year of life must, in Bavaria, be brought up for vaccination in the following year, and, consequently, there never could have been 4 per cent. of the population (about 200,000 persons) unvaccinated.

Of Dr. Oidtman, a German anti-vaccinist, by whom his English *confrères* seem to set great store, it need only be mentioned that he is chiefly noticeable for a most unjustifiable attempt to include Virchow in the ranks of the faddists—not that the great pathologist has ever either written or said anything against vaccination, but because, forsooth, he most justly denounced the system of sheep-poxing.

The next persons to be dealt with are Dr. Josef Leander

Keller, and Mr. Alfred Milnes, M.A. Keller produced some statistics about small-pox and vaccination amongst the employées on the Austrian State Railways, and Milnes, for years, assiduously propagated them in England. When in 1874 the Imperial Vaccination Law was under discussion in the German Reichstag, some anti-vaccinist referred to Dr Keller, but all reference to that worthy was speedily dropped when Dr. Zinn easily demonstrated that Keller was always on very constrained terms with the truth; and, more recently, a committee appointed by the International Medical Congress has shown that Keller not only cooked, but even invented statistics! This, however, did not prevent Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., from attempting to white-wash Keller in the House of Commons.

As far as Dr. Creighton's original—and they are highly original—statements are concerned, it is only necessary to call attention to a few of them in order to substantiate the charge that his so-called scientific objections to vaccination are most distinctly of the order pseudo-scientific. Thus we are told that “the real affinity of cow-pox is not to the small-pox but to the great-pox. The vaccinal roseola is not only very like the syphilitic, but it means the same sort of thing.” He says this, in spite of the well established fact that syphilis cannot be communicated to the bovine species, and that the two forms of roseola in question are only alike to the casual and untutored observer, the medical history of the one being totally different from that of the other. Again, in giving an absolutely inaccurate description of a plate in Jenner's “Inquiry,” Dr. Creighton actually asserts that the typical vesicle therein depicted shows “a broad central area of brownish sloughing cuticle.” Anti-vaccinists have discovered a great many mares' nests in their time, but even Rowley,

in his wildest moments, was never guilty of anything so indescribably childish as “sloughing cuticle.”

In the article on vaccination in the “Encyclopædia Britannica,” which caused such an outburst of hysterical jubilation in the faddist camp, small-pox is defined as “a tropical skin disease of the nature of lichen turned pustular or of ecthyma,” its author, Dr. Creighton, being evidently unaware that there is such a thing as *variola sine variolis*—that small-pox is an acute general infectious disease, the exciting cause of which, as a rule, enters the system through the respiratory channels, and that ecthyma, so far from being a disease *sui generis*, is but a condition which diseased portions of skin may assume, in certain pathological affections. In the same article, the following reference is made to Professor A. Vogt, of Berne: “According to a competent statistician (A. Vogt) the death-rate from small-pox in the German Army in which all recruits are re-vaccinated, was sixty per cent. more than among the civil population of the same age; it was ten times greater among the infantry than among the cavalry, and sixty times more among the Hessians than among the Wurtembergers. The Bavarian contingent which was re-vaccinated, without exception, had five times the death-rate from small-pox in the epidemic of 1870-71, that the Bavarian civil population of the same ages had, although re-vaccination is not obligatory among the latter.” Now, it is utterly impossible to compare the death-rate of the German Army, age for age, with that of the German nation, because for the latter the necessary statistics do not exist. It is different, however, with the various elements composing the German Army, concerning which detailed information is given in Dr. Engel’s official paper published in the *Zeitschrift des Königl. Preuss. Statistischen Bureau* for 1872-73. The following table is

constructed from data contained in the above mentioned work, and tends to show, as far as the statistics of the question are concerned, either that Professor Vogt's veracity is dubious, or that his arithmetic is, to say the least of it, quaint:—

Contingent.	Strength according to Ordres De Bataille.	Absolute number of Deaths from Small-pox.	Rate p. 100,000
Germ. Infy.	538,030	178	33.08
“ Cavly.	67,494	7	10.3
Wurtg. Army	27,274	1	3.6
Hessian „	15,292	34	222.3
Bavarian „	70,266	50	71.1

No one except Vogt has yet discovered that 33.08 is ten times 10.3 !

It is worth noting that Prof. Vogt is the gentleman who once quoted from a non-existent page, in an English Blue-book (v. Lotz, “Pocken und Vaccination,” a book which Creighton *says* he has read.)—

The death rate from small-pox in the Bavarian Army was 71.1 per 100,000, but that of the civil population of the same ages cannot be obtained with absolute accuracy even from the publications of the Bavarian Statistical Office, though, if one may judge from the official figures, it would lie between 70 and 80—would be, in fact, anything but one-fifth of 71.1, as Vogt would have us believe.

While dealing with Army statistics it may not be out of place to call attention to a statement made by the writer

before the Royal Commission on Vaccination, in 1889. That statement was to the effect that at least 23,469 French soldiers died from small-pox during the Franco-German war. It was traversed at the time by Anti-vaccinist Commissioners, but when referred to the French Minister of War, was shown to be true ; at least, so said Lord Herschell, the President of the Commission.

There are two further errors in the "Encyclopædia" which also call for attention, namely, the statement that 69,389 persons died from small-pox in Prussia in 1871, and the assertion that vaccination was made compulsory in that country as early as 1835. As a matter of fact, the deaths from small-pox in Prussia in 1871 amounted to 59,839. An attempt has been made, indeed, to whitewash Dr. Creighton's mis-statement by calling it a printer's error. Unfortunately, the same error (?) occurs in Mr. William White's exquisitely veracious pamphlet on Dilke and Playfair, which would seem to be Dr. Creighton's authority ! Now, with regard to compulsion in Prussia, it is only necessary to quote the words of Geheim-Rath Koch, Director of the Imperial German Health Office : "Previous to the year 1874, vaccination in Prussia was optional, not obligatory. Compulsory vaccination dates from 1st April, 1875, in which year the Imperial Vaccination Law of April 8th, 1874, came into force——," also Dr. Böing, one of the anti-vaccinist members of the German Commission, distinctly stated at one of the meetings, "before 1874 we had no vaccination law in Prussia."

Mr. Alfred Milnes, M.A., and some other faddists, once bluffed the late Dr. W. B. Carpenter into the belief that vaccination was made compulsory in Prussia in the year 1835. Had Dr. Carpenter only taken the trouble to read the law of 1835 (as the writer has done), he would have

found that the only reference to compulsion was a paragraph giving permission to the police to enforce vaccination in invaded houses during epidemics. The rest of the *Regulativ*, as this particular enactment is called in Prussia, only deals with indirect methods of enforcing vaccination. To pretend that a suggestion to employers of labour that "they would do well" to see that their workpeople were vaccinated, or a threat not to admit unvaccinated children to public schools, and similar institutions, had anything to do with the *compulsory* vaccination of infants, is a stretch of imagination only possible to the rabid anti-vaccinist of the type of the gallant, but gabbling, Major-general Phelps!

The writer, when giving his evidence before the Royal Commission, made a terrible slip. This was picked up by Doctor Job Collins, and corrected from an official German work. The unctuous rectitude of Dr. Collins, did not, however, go far enough to enable him to turn over a few more pages of the work in question, by which he would have been able to demonstrate the absolute accuracy of the writer's remarks concerning the Prussian Law of 1835.

It would be impossible here to enter into a detailed criticism of Professor Crookshank's "History and Pathology of Vaccination," but a very few words will suffice to show that that work is not free from those blemishes which characterise the writings of all Jenner's opponents. For instance, Professor Crookshank endorses Dr. Creighton's unwarrantable statement concerning the case of the boy, John Baker, and, discussing the question of the derivability of cow-pox from small-pox, shows a culpably scant acquaintance with the literature of the subject. Of the experiments conducted by Voigt, of Hamburg, in 1882, Professor Crookshank has evidently only heard at second hand through the French,

which fact may perhaps account for the circumstance that Voigt's name is invariably mis-spelt "Voit" by him. Likewise, he gives no reason for suppressing the results obtained by Voigt from vaccinating with his new "stock," and makes no reference, whatever, to the experiments of Fischer, in Carlsruhe, in the year 1885.

We now come to the case of Mr. William Tebb, who has spent much time, money and energy, in propagating anti-vaccinism. In the *Echo* of January 9th, 1891, Mr. Tebb stated that in the Milan small-pox epidemic of 1871 "the death rate among the vaccinated and unvaccinated was nearly equal." As a mere matter of fact, the death rate for the unvaccinated was 50.3, and for the vaccinated 15.8. Mr. Tebb has not yet explained upon what principle he makes 50.3, even nearly equal to 15.8. This same Mr. Tebb is invariably very great on the supposed accidents said to arise from vaccination, but, as Professor Fürbringer of Berlin has pointed out, it would be as ridiculous to prohibit vaccination because of occasional accidents, as to put a stop to railways because a train occasionally runs off the line.

In this respect it is interesting to note that Messrs. William Tebb and Jas. R. Williamson have absolutely had the unblushing effrontery to assert, in the columns of that faddist sheet the *Echo*, that the German official reports admitted eleven deaths from glycerinated lymph, in 1894. A more abominably deliberate falsification of facts was never perpetrated! Anybody who can read and understand the German language will find, on reference to the Reports in question, that, in three of the eleven cases, there were no sufficient data on which to form a conclusion as to the cause of death; in seven, secondary infection (filth, parental or otherwise) brought about the fatal result, and in the eleventh

case death was due to brain-trouble following on an eruption, which broke out on the day of vaccination, and which could not therefore be attributed to the operation itself.

All post-vaccinal troubles in Germany are thoroughly investigated by experts, and the results of such investigations are duly made public property, with the very natural result that anti-vaccinism makes no headway in the Fatherland. The average German of to-day is so well educated that he is content to leave medical matters to medical men, just as he leaves military matters to military men. To judge from English anti-vaccinist literature, the only people competent to express an opinion on such a strictly scientific question as vaccination are "the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker."

It is noteworthy that the chief organs of anti-vaccinism, the *Echo* and the *Star* are only too ready to play "Jack Pudding to any quack-salver" who will pay well for an ad.

Probably the most painful fact in connection with the agitation against vaccination is that which reveals to us Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the eminent naturalist and friend of the late Charles Darwin, as an enthusiastic supporter of a craze which depends for its very existence on cooked statistics, manipulated diagrams, and falsified returns.

Still one must not be surprised. For the great zoologist, Ernst Haeckel says of Wallace in the preface to his "Anthropogenie," "Unfortunately this talented naturalist has latterly become demented, and now-a-days only plays a part amongst London's Spiritualist Swindlers."

Dr. Wallace, in his pamphlet entitled "Forty-five Years' Registration Statistics, &c., &c.," distinctly states that he has

calculated the number, upon which his second diagram is based, from a table in the Eleventh Annual Report of the Local Government Board, the truth being that no such table as that mentioned by him exists in that volume ; his figures, even to a printer's error, being obviously obtained from a table which Mr. William White had artfully fabricated from *two distinct tables* contained in the above mentioned report. Surely these facts put Messrs. Wallace and White out of court, once and for all.

If comment upon the above mentioned facts is necessary, it is to be found, as follows, on page 90 of Dr. McVail's classical essay "Vaccination Vindicated" :—"the more I read of anti-vaccination literature the more forcibly is one rule of procedure borne in on me—driven, or hammered, or burned into me—no expression is too strong for the reality. The rule is to believe no single word that an anti-vaccinator, as such, says, without obtaining independent evidence of its truth. No matter what the position or absolute trustworthiness of the person may be in every other relation of life, yet when he comes to write on this subject, his every statement demands the most careful scrutiny."

Anti-vaccinists have much in common with the opponents of the C.D., Acts. The latter band of fanatics have, as is well known to every medical man, wrought hideous injury, not only to British soldiers, but to tens of thousands of innocent British women and children. The former gang would perform a similar kindly office for the whole of our infant population. The two parties should combine and form a society of

"PESTIFEROUS PARANOIACS" !

At the present moment, the forces of fatuous folly have triumphed over science and common sense. But when the day of retribution comes, and English matrons shall have none but pock-marked daughters, a terrible revulsion of feeling will occur, and the cry will be *à la lanterne* with the anti-vaccinists!

“The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth” is the objective of the writer. It is a matter of indifference to him, personally, who is right, the anti or the pro-vaccinist, so long as the truth be arrived at.

The only goal of the true scientist is the truth, whereas the objective of the faddist is the apotheosis of his particular fad.



Anti-vaccinists have much in common with the opponents of the C.D. Act. The latter band of fanatics have, as is well known to every medical man, wrought hideous injury, not only to British soldiers, but to tens of thousands of innocent British women and children. The former would perform a similar kindly office for the whole of our infant population. The two parties should combine and form a society of