

Report of the National Vaccine Establishment [on the occurrence of smallpox after vaccination in the families of Lord Grosvenor and Sir Henry Martin, with other cases].

Contributors

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REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL
VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT.

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REPORT, &c.

THE Board of the National Vaccine Establishment, having learned that great interest has been excited in the public mind, by the occurrence of Small Pox after Vaccination, in the families of the Earl of Grosvenor, and of Sir Henry Martin, Bart. have thought it their duty to lay the following Cases before the Public, accompanied with some observations, and a statement, how far in their opinion, these cases affect the general advantages of Vaccination.

The Case of the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, third son of the Earl of Grosvenor, was procured through the favour of Sir Henry Hallford and Sir Walter Farquhar, the Physicians who attended the young Gentleman during his illness; and the Case of the son of Sir Henry Martin, was obtained through the favor of Dr. Heberden. Both of these Cases were also visited by the Director of the Vaccine Establishment.

I. *The Case of the Hon. Robert Grosvenor.*

On Sunday, May, 26, 1811, the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, who was recovering from the Hooping Cough, became much indisposed, and threw up his dinner. Fever followed, and he complained most particularly of excruciating pain in his back. He dwelt on this symptom until Thursday, when he became delirious, and there were observed on his face about twenty spots.

He had been Vaccinated by Dr. Jenner, in his infancy, about ten years ago, and the mark left in his arm, indicated a perfect disease.

On Friday morning, the eruption had not increased materially in point of number, but the appearance of the spots and the previous symptoms, suggested strongly a suspicion that the disorder was the Small Pox.

Sir H. Halford had occasion to go to Windsor in the afternoon of Friday, and did not see Mr. Robert Grosvenor, until the Monday following, (June 2d) but he learned from Sir W. Farquhar, who attended him most carefully during Sir Henry's absence, (and subsequently) that the eruption had increased prodigiously during Friday; that on the evening of that day Mr. Robert Grosvenor began to make bloody water, and that he continued to do so until Monday morning.

On the tenth day of the disease, the pustules began to dry upon the face, which was swollen to a considerable degree, but not to the extent of closing his eyes, and was attended by a salivation which lasted several days. Petechiæ had occurred in the interstices of several of the spots, particularly on the limbs, and there was that particular smell from the whole frame, which is remarkable in bad Cases of confluent Small Pox.

It was obvious that the first symptoms of which Mr. Grosvenor complained, were such as indicated a violent dis-

case about to follow; and Sir Henry confesses that he entertained a most unfavourable opinion of the issue of such a malady, when it was fully formed; having never seen an instance of recovery under so heavy an eruption attended by such circumstances. It seemed, however, that the latter stages of the disease were passed through more rapidly in this case than usual; and it may be a question, whether this extraordinary circumstance, as well as the ultimate recovery of Mr. Grosvenor, were not influenced by previous Vaccination.

HENRY HALFORD.

W^R. FARQUHAR.

In addition to the preceding account, the Board have authority to state, that during the illness of Mr. Grosvenor, the other children of the Earl of Grosvenor, who had been previously Vaccinated, were exposed to the contagion of the Small Pox under which their brother was suffering, and were also submitted to Small Pox Inoculation without effect.

II. *The Case of the Son of Sir Henry Martin.*

Sir Henry Martin's son, aged eleven years, was Vaccinated by Mr. Tegart, in the year 1801, and exhibited all the usual marks of that disorder in a complete and satisfactory manner. He still retains on his arm the characteristic scar.

This boy was taken ill on Saturday, the 22d day of June, 1811; at the period of the attack, he was recovering from the Hooping Cough.

23d. Continued to be feverish.

24th. Mr. Tegart was sent to.

25th. The fever increased, and at night he became delirious.

26th. An eruption was perceived chiefly about the mouth, at the same time his eyes and throat were slightly inflamed. The fever continued.

27th. or 2d day of the eruption, the pustules increased, so as to afford suspicion of the Chicken Pox.

3d. day of the eruption, the pustules increased, the fever decreased.

4th. At the close of the fourth day, Dr. Heberden first saw this boy, with a distinct eruption of the most perfect kind of Small Pox, all pretty uniform in size, well filled with a fluid already beginning to grow yellow, and surrounded by a rose-coloured margin, precisely like Small Pox of the fifth day. There were about one hundred pustules on the face, and, perhaps, twice as many on the limbs, but the trunk was almost free, the features were swollen, but not very much so. The skin was hot, and the pulse quick.

5th day. The pustules were more puriform and yellow, and the patient complained of soreness, but he was cooler, and his pulse was quieter.

6th. The fever had entirely subsided, and the Pock began to turn.

8th. The pustules were dried, and beginning to fall off from the face. The boy continued quite well.

Pall-Mall,

W. HEBERDEN.

4th July, 1811.

With a view of obtaining the most accurate knowledge of the early symptoms of this Case, which did not come under the immediate observation of Dr. Heberden, the board have procured, through the favour of Mr. Tegart,

of Pall Mall, an account of the commencement and course of the disorder, which corroborates the above statement.— And from the same source they have been informed, that Miss Martin, and a nursery maid of Sir H. Martin's family, who had both been Vaccinated, were Inoculated with matter taken from Master Martin on the fifth day of the eruption, and were exposed to the contagion of the Small Pox during the course of his disorder, without effect.

THE BOARD are of opinion, that the Case of the Hon. Robert Grosvenor, was a Case of Confluent Small Pox. That the attack and progress of the disorder, were attended by symptoms which almost invariably announce a fatal termination. But they observe, that the swelling of the face, which is generally so excessive as to close the eye, and is considered as a favourable symptom, was slighter than usual; that on the tenth day, the pustules began to dry upon the face, and that from that time the disease passed with unusual rapidity through the period, when life is generally esteemed to be in the greatest hazard.

Those who are acquainted with the nature of the Confluent Small Pox, are aware that this peculiarity cannot be attributed to effect of Medical Treatment.

The Case of the Son of Sir Henry Martin, exhibits a mild form of distinct Small Pox, occurring after Vaccination.

In most cases of Small Pox which have succeeded to Vaccination, the pustules have been observed to dry more rapidly, and the disorder has concluded at an earlier period than usual.

If allowance be made for the relative periods in which the Confluent and distinct Small Pox complete their course, the rapid progress towards recovery through the latter stage of Confluent Small Pox, as exhibited in the Case of Mr. Grosvenor, may be compared with the rapid desiccation of the Pustules, in the distinct and peculiarly mild form of the disorder, which is considered as Small Pox modified by Vac-

cination. Both forms of the disorder proceed in the usual course, the one attended with violent, the other with mild symptoms, till they arrive near to the height, when they appear to receive a check, and the recovery is unusually rapid.

From this correspondence of circumstances, the Board are inclined to infer, that in the Case of Mr. Grosvenor, which has been more violent than any yet submitted to them, the progress of the disease, through its latter stage, and the consequent abatement of symptoms, were influenced by antivariolous effect, produced upon the constitution by the Vaccine progress.

The occurrence of Small Pox after Vaccination, has been foreseen and pointed out in the Report on Vaccination made to Parliament, by the College of Physicians in the Year 1807, to which the Board are desirous of calling the attention of the Public; wherein it is stated, that,

“ The security derived from Vaccination against the Small Pox, if not absolutely perfect, is as nearly so as can, perhaps, be expected from any human discovery; for, amongst several Hundred Thousand Cases, with the results of which the College have been made acquainted, the number of alledged failures has been surprisingly small, so much so as to form certainly no reasonable objection to the general adoption of Vaccination; for it appears that there are not nearly so many failures in a given number of Vaccinated persons, as there are Deaths in an equal number of persons inoculated for the Small Pox. Nothing can more clearly demonstrate the superiority of Vaccination over the Inoculation of the Small Pox, than this consideration; and it is a most important fact, which has been confirmed in the course of this inquiry, that in almost ever Case in which the Small Pox has succeeded Vaccination, whether Inoculation or by Casual Infection, the disease has varied much from its ordinary course; it has neither been the same in violence nor in the duration of its symptoms; but has, with very few exceptions been remarkably mild, as if the Small Pox

had been deprived by the previous Vaccine disease, of its usual malignity."—*Vide Report of College of Physicians, p. 4.*

The peculiarities of certain constitutions, with regard to eruptive fevers, form a curious subject of Medical History. Some individuals have been more than once affected with Scarlet Fever, and Measles; others have been through life exposed to the contagion of these diseases without effect; many have resisted the Inoculation and contagion of Small Pox for several years, and have afterwards become susceptible of the disorder, and some have been twice affected with Small Pox.

Among such infinite varieties of temperament, it will not appear extraordinary, that Vaccination though so generally successful, should sometimes fail of rendering the human constitution unsusceptible of Small Pox, especially since it has been found that in several instances Small Pox has occurred to individuals over whom the Small Pox Inoculation had appeared to have produced its full influence. Three instances of this kind have taken place within the last month, and in another instance, the natural Small Pox has occurred a second time.

These Cases the Board now submit to the Public, as a recent illustration of the foregoing assertion, which has long been maintained and supported by credible evidence.

I. *Case of the Rev. Joshua Rowley.*

The Rev. Joshua Rowley, brother to Sir W. Rowley, when an infant, was Inoculated by the late Mr. Adair, 1770; the scar left by the Inoculation, is perfectly visible; his mother, the Dowager Lady Rowley, remembers perfectly his having a tolerable sprinkling of Small Pox, and says he was

afterwards repeatedly exposed to Variolous infection in the Nursery, when his three younger brothers were successively Inoculated, all of whom had some degree of eruption, and since that time, frequently in performing the clerical duties of his profession.

On Wednesday the 5th of June, he felt much indisposed, complained of Pain in his Head and Back, attended with considerable restlessness and prostration of strength: on Friday the 7th, an eruption appeared chiefly on his Face and Breast; he was attended by Mr. Woodman, of Bognor, only, till the Monday following, when Mr. Guy, Surgeon of Chichester was first consulted; on examining the eruption, Mr. Guy was immediately struck with its resemblance to the Small Pox, and on gently hinting his suspicion to Mr. Rowley, received the information above related. On the following day, the progress of the eruption towards maturation, and the swelling of the Face, which is characteristic of the Small Pox, left no doubt of the nature of the malady. The eruption was perfectly distinct, it was very full all over the trunk and body, and there were about two hundred pustules on the Face. Mr. Guy is of opinion, that this was a clearly marked Case of Small Pox.

The history of the previous Variolous Inoculation, in 1770, was procured from the Dowager Lady Rowley, by Mr. Dundas, Sergeant Surgeon to his Majesty; and the account of the present Case was transmitted to the Director of Vaccination of this Establishment, on the application of the Board, by Mr. Guy, an eminent Surgeon of Chichester.

II. *Case of Miss Sarah Booth, of the Covent Garden Theatre.*

Dr. Bree was called to visit Miss S. Booth, on Monday, June 25th. She was said to be ill with the Small Pox, and the following circumstances were reported by the Mother and Sisters.

Miss Booth is 18 years of age, she had been Inoculated for the Small Pox, at five years of age, and had been affected with the usual degree of fever; the Arm had been violently inflamed, and an eruption of Small Pox pustules had appeared round the Inoculated part, from which matter had been taken by Mr. Kennedy, the Surgeon who attended her. Mr. Kennedy expressed himself satisfied that Miss S. Booth had passed regularly through the disease.

The usual scar of Small Pox Inoculation is perfectly evident on the arm.

On Thursday, June 20th, Miss Booth was seized with fever, distinguished by vomiting, violent head-ache, pains in the back and loins.

The symptoms continued till Saturday, June 22d, in the evening of which day, some pustules came out on the forehead and scalp.

Sunday, June 23d, a more complete eruption appeared on the face and neck, and she was relieved from the violence of the fever. The vomiting however continued, the throat became very sore, and a salivation began.

Monday, June 24th. The eruption extended itself on the body, the fever was still more abated, but the salivation, soreness of the throat, and vomiting, were urgent symptoms.

Tuesday, June 25th. The fourth day of the eruption, the salivation and retching continued, with soreness of the throat.

Wednesday, June 26th. Fifth day of the eruption.—Pustules were noticed on the lower extremities, those on the face advance, and the eyes are swelled, the number of the pustules on the head and face is about two dozen.

Thursday, June the 27th, sixth day of the eruption.—The pustules on the face begin to turn. She still suffers from sore throat and salivation. This evening, contrary to advice, she went to her business at the Theatre.

Friday, June 28th, seventh day of the eruption. The pustules on the face are turned, those on the lower extremities are few in number, but well filled and not yet changed.

Saturday, June, 29th eighth day of the eruption. She only complains of sickness. After this day the pustules turned and dried on the lower extremities, and no complaint remained.

This Case appeared to have been a very mild Case of distinct Small Pox.

ROBR. BREE.

This Case was visited by the greater number of Members of the Board, and also by the Director, and was attended by Mr. Hewson, of James-Street, Covent Garden, who entertains no doubt of this having been a Case of Small Pox.

III. *Case of John Godwin.*

Mrs. Godwin, No. 6, Stratton Street, Piccadilly, states that she was brought to bed of this son in October, 1800, that six weeks after he was born, the Small Pox prevailed very much in her neighbourhood, and one child died of it in the house in which she lived. About thist ime her son was attacked with very violent fever, succeeded by a copious eruption all over the face and body, which was declared by Mr. Smith, an Apothecary who attended him, to be the Small Pox, and which was ten or twelve days before it completely scabbed and dried off.

Some time after this, a brother of her husband, a Medical Man who had not seen the child during its illness, Inoculated him for the Small Pox, in order to insure his

complete security; a small pimple on the part was only formed, which soon disappeared, and no fever or eruption ensued. About six weeks ago, this boy, now eleven years old, was attacked with fever, followed with an eruption, which broke out on the face, body, and limbs, exhibiting the ordinary appearance of Small Pox, and which turned on the eighth day.

Mr. Kerrison of New Burlington-Street, who attended this boy, states that the eruption exhibited the exact appearance, and passed through all the stages of distinct Small Pox. He also from this boy Inoculated a child who had fever at the usual time, followed by a slight variolous eruption.

The History of the former disease was procured from Mrs. Godwin, and the History of the second attack of Small Pox from Mr. Kerrison, by Mr. Moore, Director of Vaccination, at this Establishment.

IV. *Case of Peter Sylvester, No. 10, Cross-Street, Carnaby Market.*

This boy's Parents are both dead. He was born on June 7th, 1798, and on the 21st of February, following, was Inoculated for the Small Pox by Mr. Ring, of New-Street, Surgeon. Mr. Ring shewed the Director of Vaccination at this Establishment, his account book of that period, in which there is a charge regularly entered for Inoculating this Boy for the Small Pox.

The cicatrix on his arm is still conspicuous, and six or seven Small Pox pits, occasioned by the former eruption, have marked his face.

On the 24th of June last, this Boy was taken ill with fever; on the 27th, an eruption on the skin took place.—Mr. Moore, the Director, saw him on the 30th; the spots on the skin were very numerous, but distinct, and the skin round their bases was inflamed, many had formed within the mouth and throat.

July 1st, the eruption has now assumed the appearance of genuine Small Pox, the pustules are augmenting and the face is beginning to swell. 2nd. The pustules are larger, and the face much swelled. 3d. The pustules on the face are at the height, and the eyes are nearly closed.— 4th. The pustules on the face have all begun to turn ; all fever is gone.

This case is drawn up from the notes of Mr. Moore. The Case was visited by several Members of the Board, and by many other Medical Gentlemen of the highest respectability.

FROM the period at which the violent opposition to Small Pox Inoculation subsided, till the Establishment of Vaccination, no reasonable parent has refused to allow his Children the benefit of Inoculation, although it has been generally acknowledged that the Inoculation of the Small Pox sometimes produces a fatal disease ; and if at that time the instances in which the Natural Small Pox had occurred after Inoculation, had been communicated to the Public, every intelligent man would undoubtedly have still continued the same course, from a desire of affording his Children the best chance of safety, although his confidence in the absolute security from Natural Small Pox, must have been in some degree abated.

In the same manner no effect injurious to Vaccination ought to result from the knowledge of the above failures.— Parents always had been apprized that there were occasional failures of Vaccination, but they were always aware that none of their children would die of Vaccine Inoculation, and that when it failed, the succeeding Small Pox was almost always mitigated and disarmed of half its terrors.— It was natural therefore, that they should choose Vaccination as the less dangerous disorder, and the same reason still exists for their perseverance in that choice. If there be constitutions, which are twice susceptible of Small Pox, a disorder which produces a violent action upon the human frame, and often destroys life, it is natural to expect that

Vaccination should not in every instance prevent the Small Pox, and that the anomaly which occurs in the one disease should likewise take place in the other. It is ever to be kept in view that the number of Deaths from Inoculated Small Pox, exceeds the number of failures of Vaccination. It appears from the present state of our information, that one person in three hundred dies from the Inoculated Small Pox, and that there is perhaps one failure in a thousand after Vaccination. An individual who under such circumstances should prefer the Inoculation of his Children for the Small Pox, to submitting them to Vaccination, would be guilty of an improvidence similar to that of a parent who should choose for his son a military service, in which there was one chance in three hundred of being killed, in preference to a station, where there was only one chance in a thousand of being slightly wounded.

The Board are of opinion, that Vaccination still rests upon the basis on which it was placed, by the Reports of the several Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of the United Kingdom, which were laid before Parliament in the year 1807. That the general advantages of Vaccination are not discredited by the instances of failure, which have recently occurred, the proportion of failures still remaining less in number than the deaths which take place from the the Inoculated Small Pox. They are led by their information to believe, that since this practice has been fully established, no death has in any instance occurred from Small Pox after Vaccination.—That in most of the cases in which Vaccination has failed, the Small Pox has been a disease remarkably mild, and of unusually short duration; and they are further of opinion, that the severity of the symptoms with which Mr. Grosvenor was affected, forms an exception to a general rule.

That absolute security from the Natural Small Pox is not even to be obtained by Small Pox Inoculation, is sufficiently evident from the annexed Cases, and the Board are enabled to state, that they have been made acquainted

with instances of individuals who have twice undergone the Natural Small Pox.

Under all these circumstances, the Board feel justified in still recommending and promoting Vaccination, and in declaring their unabated confidence in this practice.—Since in some peculiar frames of constitution the repetition of Small Pox is neither prevented by Inoculation or casual infection, the Board are of opinion that in such peculiar constitutions, the occurrence of Small Pox after Vaccination may be reasonably expected, and perhaps in a greater proportion, but with this admission, they do not hesitate to maintain, that the proportionate advantages of Vaccination to individuals and the public, are infinitely greater than those of Small Pox Inoculation.

They are anxious, that the existence of certain peculiarities of the Human Frame, by which some individuals are rendered by nature, more or less susceptible of eruptive fevers, and of the recurrence of such disorders, should be publicly known; for they feel confident that a due consideration of these circumstances, and a just feeling of the welfare of the community, will induce the public to prefer a mild disease like Vaccination, which where it fails of superseding the Small Pox, yet mitigates its violence, and prevents its fatal consequences, to one whose effects are frequently violent, to one which often occasions deformity and blindness, and when it is contracted by casual infection, has been supposed to destroy one in six in all that it attacks.

And it must not be forgotten, that in a public view this constitutes the great objection to Inoculation of the Small Pox, that by its contagion it disseminates death throughout the Empire, whilst Vaccination, whatever be the comparative security which it affords to individuals, occasions no subsequent disorder, and has never, by the most violent of its opposers, been charged with producing an epidemical sickness.

By Order of the Board.

July, 18, 1811.

JAs. HERVEY, Register.