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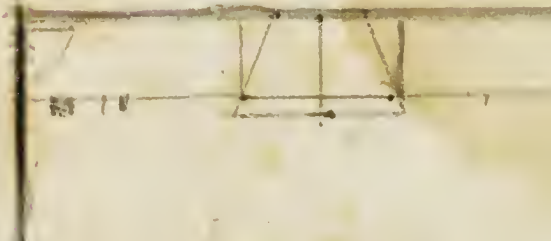
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A T R E A T I S E

ON

C O W - P O X.

IN WHICH

THE EXISTENCE OF SMALL-POX, OR VARIOLOID IN ANY FORM,
SUBSEQUENT TO VACCINATION, IS SHOWN TO ARISE FROM
SOME IMPERFECTION IN ITS PERFORMANCE, AND NOT
THE RESULT OF INEFFICACY ON THE PART OF THE
VACCINA TO SHIELD THE SYSTEM ENTIRELY
FROM THESE DISEASES.

BY

DAVID R. HIBBARD, M.D.

LATE VACCINE PHYSICIAN TO THE NEW-YORK DISPENSARY.

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NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY HARPER & BROTHERS,

NO. 82 CLIFF-STREET.

1835.

[Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1835, by
DAVID R. HIBBARD, in the Clerk's Office of the Southern Dis-
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TO

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,
PHYSICIAN OF THE NEW-YORK HOSPITAL, ETC.

SIR,

To you I respectfully dedicate this small work, as a testimony of gratitude for the many acts of kindness and attention shown to me while under your preceptorship ; and also as a tribute of respect due to your distinguished talents, your persevering industry, and unwearied exertions for the advancement of the noble science of which you are so bright an ornament.

Sir,

Your much obliged and sincere friend,

DAVID R. HIBBARD.



TO THE PUBLIC.

THE opportunities which the author has enjoyed for nearly six years past as vaccinc physician of the NEW-YORK DISPENSARY, have enabled him to examine the subject treated of in the following pages with advantages a private station could not possibly have afforded him. Through the liberality of the city authorities, aided by the zeal of the trustees of the Dispensary, he has likewise been furnished with additional means for establishing many important facts connected with the nature and origin of this wonderful prophylactic. Upon three several occasions during the last few years, the Corporation of this city have generously provided for the keeping of cows, in order that pure and efficient vaccine virus might be procured from them. Thus supplied with the requisite means for investigating this subject, the author deems it his duty to present the public with the following statement, as the result of his experiments.

Seventeen cows were inoculated by him with the Small-pox virus, each a number of times, in order to excite, if possible, the Cow-pox in this way, and thus to establish the identity of the two diseases,—an opinion entertained and warmly advocated by a number of respectable physicians. However, he was not able to produce the slightest effect in the cow by means of that virus.

Another opinion at one period also prevailed—that the Cow-pox originated from a disease affecting the heels of horses, termed *grease*. To test the validity of this, three cows were inoculated with matter derived from this source, but without effect.

By the use of Cow-pox virus he was more successful, it having in several instances excited the affection to all appearances precisely similar to what is observed to mark it in the human species; although this experiment has not been attended with uniform success. Last winter five cows were carefully vaccinated by him, in two and sometimes three places each, and at six different periods; and all without effect. Three of these were also inoculated with the virus of Small-pox, and with the same result.

The success which has attended him in his efforts upon former occasions prompts him, notwithstanding

ing the disappointments attendant upon these recent trials, to further efforts in this interesting field of inquiry. The fact that instances of Varioloid or modified Small-pox are increasing, both in number and severity, demands that vigorous efforts be made to calm the apprehensions of the public on this subject, and to inspire a proper confidence in the efficacy of Cow-pox. In the hopes of effecting this, the author proposes to establish an institution to be denominated the

“UNITED STATES VACCINE INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EXTERMINATION OF SMALL-POX;”

the immediate design of which will be to carry into effect measures which shall tend most to the accomplishment of this object.

Among the reasons which have led to this undertaking, the following may be enumerated:—

1st. The little attention which the profession generally pay to the subject of vaccination.

2d. The immense difficulty which physicians experience to meet the demand for vaccine virus, especially during the existence of Small-pox.

3d. The fact that, to have the vaccine virus always *pure, fresh, and genuine*, the greatest pos-

sible attention should be given both to its *insertion* and *abstraction*.

4th. That re-vaccination, to be at all satisfactory, should in every instance be performed with perfectly genuine and recent virus.

5th. The probability that Varioloid has arisen from a deterioration of the vaccine virus, in consequence of not returning sufficiently often to the cow for a fresh supply (that now in common use having been obtained by Dr. PEARSON, of London, as early as 1799), is one reason why vigorous and persevering efforts should be made to procure the virus again from its original source.*

6th. No physician, unless he devotes his exclusive attention to the subject, can vaccinate more than a very limited number of persons; he is consequently compelled frequently to resort to others

* During the year 1823 the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment made numerous inquiries, through their extensive correspondence with practitioners in all the dairy counties of England, and no tidings could be received of the disease in the cow; whence it may fairly be considered as having been lost, during a certain interval; and were it not for the generosity of government, supported by the laudable and active zeal of the gentlemen who form the Board, the nation might have been altogether deprived of the advantages derived from this happy discovery.—JOHN MARSHALL, M.D., vaccinator to the National Vaccine Establishment, London.

for a supply of the virus. Is it not probable that, conducted in this manner, the efficacy of the vaccine virus will become impaired, and that the disease thus imparted will not, at all times, be entirely perfect and genuine?

7th. The fact that no institution exists in America, having for its object the careful preservation of the vaccine virus in sufficient quantities to be able instantly to meet the demands which may be made for it from all parts of the country, and thus furnish the means for the immediate arrest of Small-pox wherever it shall appear; that the institutions which pretend to pay attention to the subject are charitable, and therefore but partial and inefficient in their operations.

Finally. The certainty that entire immunity can be afforded by vaccination against Small-pox as well as Varioloid (the latter becoming, as it now does, so frequent and alarming as to destroy in some instances all confidence in the efficacy of Cow-pox), an institution like the one now proposed is deemed actually necessary to remove the prejudices which exist and are increasing against this, the most innocent and, at the same time, the most perfect safeguard to Small-pox which has ever yet been offered to mankind.

Such are some of the reasons which have led

to the adoption of the plan now in contemplation. The author, having been engaged for several years past as vaccine physician of the New-York Dispensary, and having had ample opportunities of qualifying himself for the undertaking, trusts that the universal satisfaction he has given in that capacity will be a sufficient guarantee to the public that the duties upon which he is now about to enter will be faithfully and ably performed.

With these qualifications, he proposes to devote his exclusive attention to this important branch of his profession ; to resort to the cow frequently for the virus, and to keep on hand a *constant, genuine, and fresh* supply of it.* By these means he hopes to inspire confidence in the public in the efficacy

* A deterioration of the vaccine virus is not the only misfortune which may be apprehended from inattention to this subject ; that now already in use may be lost unless proper exertions be made for its preservation.

In the summer of 1832, while the cholera spread desolation and dismay throughout all ranks in this city, vaccination was totally disregarded and neglected ; and for the space of probably two months not an instance of that affection occurred in the whole city. Immediately after that period, I made a general inquiry among physicians for the virus, and received from some of them vaccine scabs, which, being imperfect, proved ineffectual. At last I obtained one that succeeded ; and all the vaccine virus now in use in New-York and the surrounding country has proceeded from it.

of vaccination, and the perfect protection against Small-pox which it is calculated to afford ; and thus to arrest the spread of one of the most loathsome and direful diseases that ever infected the human race.

The Institution will be located in the Bowery, a few doors above Rivington-street.

A physician will be in attendance at all hours to vaccinate those who apply for that purpose. All who may wish to be vaccinated at their dwellings will be visited by Dr. HIBBARD.

The vaccine virus used in the Institution will be carefully selected by Dr. HIBBARD, and the public are assured that no efforts will be spared to render it effective and worthy their confidence.

Physicians, in any part of the country, by transmitting their orders, can be supplied with genuine and *recent vaccine lymph*, or *scab*, upon the *shortest notice*.

It is scarcely deemed necessary to say any thing with regard to the immense importance of vaccination. The late and present extensive prevalence of Small-pox and Varioloid in this city and its vicinity, should be a sufficient warning to all not to neglect so mild, so safe, and so certain a prophylactic, requiring for its performance no material change in habits or mode of living, and which can

be performed with equal success at every age, and at every season of the year. The striking diminution of mortality (especially among children) wherever it has been practised, even in its present imperfect manner, should be sufficient to convince every one of its importance. The general introduction of vaccination in the way now proposed will undoubtedly lay the basis for the extermination of the Small-pox,—the greatest foe to beauty and to human life with which mankind has ever been afflicted.

To his professional brethren he can look with confidence for support, as they must be aware of the feeble and ineffectual method in which vaccination has hitherto been conducted in this country.

TREATISE
ON
C O W - P O X.

LITERARY HISTORY OF THE COW-POX.

AT what time the Cow-pox was first ascertained to afford protection against the Small-pox is not known. The fact, however, was for a long period of years familiar to the inhabitants of Gloucestershire and Derbyshire, England, and also to those of some parts of Switzerland. Authentic evidence exists of inoculation for Cow-pox having been performed as early as 1774, and immunity from Small-pox thereby afforded; but, it seems, such was the extreme prejudice against this affection at that time, on account of its *origin*, that very few could be found who would submit to its inoculation, notwithstanding the vast benefits which it promised. To Dr. EDWARD JENNER we are indebted for the promulgation of the fact of the

antivariolous properties of the Cow-pox, when communicated by inoculation. He was the first to institute experiments, and examine the facts connected with this important subject, and to publish them to the world. His first experiment was instituted on the 14th of May, 1796; and Mr. MOORE, in his History of Vaccination, observes,—“Such have been the results of what was done on that day in an obscure country hamlet, that at this moment the discovery has gone abroad over the whole inhabited world; and the name of JENNER, or in strange languages a sound imitating his name, is now articulated throughout the world by every kindred, tongue, and nation.”

Very shortly after Dr. JENNER had announced the peculiar properties of the Cow-pox, in his “Observations on the Variolæ Vaccinæ,” Drs. PEARSON and WOODVILLE, two eminent physicians of London, entered with zeal and boldness into this new field of investigation.

The latter of these gentlemen was physician to the London Small-pox Hospital; and the advantages afforded by the situation enabled him to establish many of the important truths connected with this subject. The reports to the public which were made by these gentlemen attracted very general attention, and the great benefits of the

Cow-pox became thereby gradually more and more extended.

Dr. JENNER pointed out clearly the following facts: that a vesicular disease affecting the teats and udders of the cow could be transferred by inoculation to the human subject; that it might, by the same means, be transmitted indefinitely from one person to another; that when once the human frame had felt its *full* influence, it was for ever afterward shielded from the Small-pox. The truth of these propositions subsequent experience has fully confirmed.

The first announcement of Dr. JENNER's discoveries gave rise to the most violent and dishonourable opposition from those whom wanton malignity or hopes of pecuniary emolument prompted to assail him,—a wonderful testimony of the obduracy and stubbornness of man! For, while the protective mantle of vaccina was thrown around thousands, obviously shielding them from the searching influence of a most direful pestilence, there were still those, claiming the suffrage of mental integrity, and holding the responsible station of guardians to public health, who aimed at this ægis of JENNER the most rancorous and piercing shafts. An uncontrolled animosity and determined recklessness alone characterized their opposition; and no lan-

guage was too harsh, no falsehood too glaring, no act too hostile. As illustrative of this I offer the following quotation from a work by FERDINAND SMYTH STUART, a grandson of Charles the Second, who had represented in the frontispiece Dr. JENNER and his coadjutors, *cornuted* and *caudated*, feeding a monster with baskets full of infants. To illustrate the plate he gives us the following:—

“A mighty and horrible monster—with the horns of a bull, the hind hoofs of a horse, the jaws of the krakin, the teeth and claws of a tiger, the tail of a cow,—all the evils of Pandora’s box in his belly,—plague, pestilence, leprosy, purple blotches, fetid ulcers, and filthy running sores covering his body,—with an atmosphere of accumulated disease, pain, and death around him—has made his appearance in the world, and devours mankind, especially poor helpless infants, not by scores only, or hundreds, or thousands, but by hundreds of thousands.” Again—“The Cow-pox mangc, or farce, Cow-pox ulcers, with pus-green, green as grass, clearly demonstrating their bovine origin. Cow-pox evil, or abscess Cow-pox mortification, is nothing in comparison to the brutalization of the noblest work of the creation.

“Among the numerous shocking cases of Cow-pox which I have heard of, I know not if the most

horrible of all has yet been published, viz.—of a child in Peckham, who, after being inoculated with the Cow-pox, had its former natural mild disposition absolutely changed to the brutal, so that it ran on all-fours like a beast, bellowing like a cow, and butting with its head like a bull. For my part,” he adds, with philosophic skepticism, “I can scarce think it possible, having had no time to ascertain the truth.”

Dr. MOSELY, also, pretended to believe in the brutalizing influence of vaccination, which has drawn down upon him the following spirited and humorous stanza :—

“ Oh, MOSELY ! thy books, nightly fantasies rousing,
 Full oft make me quake for my heart’s dearest treasures,
 For fancy in dreams oft presents them all browsing
 On commons, just like little Nebuchadnezzars.
 There, nibbling at thistles, stand Jim, Joc, and Mary ;
 On their foreheads, oh, horrible ! crumpled horns bud ;
 Here Tom with a tail, and poor William all hairy,
 Reclined in a corner, are chewing their cud.”*

* Even in this enlightened day, and after the beneficial effects of vaccination have been such as almost to banish the Small-pox from various parts of the world, is it not a little astonishing that a man so enlightened as WILLIAM COBRETT should be found to advocate the abolition of Cow-pox inoculation from society, *merely on account of its origin?* The day has long passed when the idea

Notwithstanding the villanous jests which it met with on the one hand, and the gross misrepresentations and calumnies it encountered on the other, the practice of vaccination continued to gain the confidence and favour of the community. The thousands and tens of thousands whom it enabled to resist the Small-pox, the total extinction of that pestilence in whole countries, and the security against its importation which they enjoyed in consequence of their inhabitants being effectually shielded by vaccination from its malignant attacks, compelled a subsequent class of opponents to assail the doctrines of JENNER in a more subtle and specious manner. Mr. THOMAS BROWN urged, that though vaccination imparted protection *for a short time*, the security gradually decayed, and was at length completely exhausted. This hypothesis was brought forward with much parade and pretention, and the sensation produced by the vaunt-

of the brutalizing influence of vaccination existed : nor does Cobbett rest his objection in any degree upon this ; no—his squeamish antipathy to its *source* is all he has to urge : and what does this amount to ? Suppose he should discover that the decomposition of snakes in one part of Africa had created a pestilence, and that this pestilence was the Small-pox ; would he still maintain that this scourge was “ a manly disorder ? ”—*Vide* COBBETT'S *Advice to Young Men*, p. 198.

ing advertisements in the public papers of this gentleman's book, induced the managers of the Edinburgh Vaccine Institution to publish in opposition a report of *facts*, which we here transcribe :—

“ With regard to the facts which have occurred in the practice of the surgeons of the Vaccine Institution, which tend to confirm or confute the doctrine of the mere temporary protection afforded by vaccination against Small-pox, the reporters beg leave to state that the result of their experience is in strict accordance with that of Dr. JENNER and the other advocates of vaccination. They have lately inoculated with Small-pox children who were vaccinated eight or nine years ago, and find that they completely resist the disease. They have not been able to produce on them any more than a local inflammation, which disappeared in four or five days; they have almost every year visited numbers of children who were vaccinated during the first years of this institution; and this they have again done within these three months. In this investigation they have found a great many of those who were vaccinated in the year 1801 and 1802, that is, seven and eight years since, who have been frequently and freely exposed, and especially within these last six months, to the contagion of

the natural Small-pox, by playing, sleeping, and otherwise mixing with children in all the different stages of that disease without being infected.”—Pages 32 and 33.

There are abundant facts on record which prove that the antivariolous powers of Cow-pox are permanent, or at least that they suffer no diminution in the course of half a century.

BENJAMIN JESTY, a farmer of Downshay, Isle of Purbeck, visited London in 1805, and afforded decisive evidence of his having vaccinated his wife and two sons in the year 1774, who were thereby rendered unsusceptible of Small-pox, as appears from the frequent exposure of all the three parties to that disorder during *thirty-one years*; and from the inoculation of the two sons *for the Small-pox*, fifteen years before.

Dr. JENNER has recorded cases of persons who had been affected with Cow-pox, and had resisted Small-pox upwards of fifty years; and in a very excellent report of the medical faculty of Kiel, upon Cow-pox in the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, there is the remarkable case of a woman then alive who had the Cow-pox when a year and a half old, and had remained secure against Small-pox infection for *sixty years*! In another case the protection had then lasted fifty-six, and in many

forty, thirty, and twenty years !* The experience, then, of our predecessors, as well as our contemporaries, decidedly prove that the antivariolous powers of Cow-pox do not decrease or wear out by length of time.

I cannot, however, pass over this part of my subject without noticing the attempt of the late celebrated and highly-gifted Dr. GEORGE GREGORY to elucidate the subject of the origin of Varioloid by deductions from this erroneous hypothesis :-- " When," says the doctor, " the arm of a vaccinated child exhibits a small vesicle with an imperfectly formed areola, the whole process being completed, and the scab falling off within fourteen days, I am *always* induced to state to the parent, who may express a feeling of anxiety that her offspring possesses any susceptibility to Small-pox—that the process of vaccination will give a temporary security to the child, that for a certain number of years the child will not be susceptible of Small-pox ; but that, at some future period, revaccination will be necessary in order to complete that saturation of the system with the vaccine influence, which circumstances at present preclude it from receiving."† Upon what grounds Dr. GREGORY

* Medical Repository.

† London Medical Gazette.

could hold up this view of the subject as an essential feature in the theory of vaccination, I am at a loss to conceive. He evidently assigns to it a *temporary* security only, and that, too, in proportion to the regularity with which the vaccine disease had progressed. This is admitting *two* propositions which experience is certainly opposed to: 1st, that even an irregular vesicle will *fully* shield the system for *any* length of time; 2d, that the vaccina loses its protective powers by age.

The frequent appearance after vaccination of *Varioloid*, in one or other of its *Protean* forms, entitles it to much consideration in the following pages. I expect to present conclusive evidence to prove that its occurrence at any time subsequent to vaccination is a consequence of some imperfection in the process of vaccinating, and not a failure of power on the part of vaccine to shield the system against the Small-pox. It was the remark of the immortal JENNER, that when once the system had felt the *full* influence of the Cow-pox, it was never after assailable by Small-pox. This is a clearly established truth, and, as I hope to show, merits the utmost confidence of the community.

ON THE SOURCE AND CAUSES OF COW-POX.

When Dr. JENNER first directed his attention to the nature and effects of the Cow-pox, he conceived that it took its origin from the disease affecting the heels of horses, called *grease*. It is said, however, that after much attention to this subject, he finally came to the conclusion that it was an affection springing up spontaneously in the cow, and in every respect peculiar to her.

This point has given rise to a great diversity of opinions, and the origin of Cow-pox is at the present day a grave subject of speculation. Some imagine that the disease, as it exists in the cow, is actually the Small-pox, modified simply by the peculiar constitution of that animal ; others regard the affection as springing originally from some other order of the animal creation, and appearing in the cow in the form of the mild *vaccina*. Both these hypotheses are purely conjectural ; but as the first has created some considerable speculation, it may be well to examine cursorily its merits.

In the first place, cows have been many times inoculated for the Small-pox, but have uniformly resisted its influence. If the Cow-pox in the cow be originally derived from the Small-pox in man, how is it possible that that animal should not have been subject to the disease in any other regions except two or three counties in England, Switzerland, and America ; while, on the contrary, Small-pox has ravaged every part of the habitable globe ?

Again ; if the Small-pox in man will excite in the cow the affection we term Cow-pox, we ought to conclude, from what we know of the laws governing these diseases, that the Cow-pox in the cow would, if transferred to man, reproduce in him the Small-pox, and nothing milder or different. The mildest Small-pox we behold in man, when it amounts but to a few scattered sores, does not communicate to others the disease a whit less malignant on account of its own mildness. Moreover, Small-pox is communicable through the atmosphere in the most subtle and disguised manner ; Cow-pox, on the contrary, is never communicated but by actual inoculation. Small-pox excites a general eruption of sores upon the surface, while the Cow-pox excites a sore only where the virus is inserted. Finally, the *vesicles*

themselves are different: they differ very considerably in shape; do not exhibit the same appearances, when compared together from day to day, during their progress; do not possess the same internal structure, nor are the scars which they leave of the same peculiar aspect and feature. From whence it may be inferred, conclusively, that notwithstanding the two affections resemble each other in some few of their general features,—such as the period each requires to complete its course; the size, shape, and colour of the vesicles; the scars they produce, as well as the insensibility each creates in the system, not only to its own recurrence, but to the recurrence of the other,—they are, nevertheless, two separate and distinct diseases, each governed by its own peculiar laws. Therefore, from the present state of our knowledge, we must conclude that the Cow-pox is a disease originating spontaneously in the cow,—is peculiar to that animal,—“and never appears in her but once.”*

The strongest evidences I have met with in support of this opinion, I obtained some time since from a very intelligent gentleman residing in the vicinity of New-York, who keeps quite an extensive *dairy*. He remarked that it is customary

* Dr. George Pearson, p. 27.

for him, early in the spring, to procure a number of cows from the country; they are taken directly from their simple food and common fare, brought to his stables, and fed high upon some warming, stimulating mess which he prepares; and by this process their usual quantity of milk is vastly increased in a very short time. The consequence is, that the cow will sometimes refuse to eat for several days, and manifest evident signs of being unwell. During this period a vesicular eruption will appear upon her teats and udder; the little vesicles will increase in size and fulness for several days; and, finally, if not irritated and rubbed, dry away into scabs. As this process is going on, the cow gradually recovers her appetite. To satisfy himself of the nature of these eruptions, he informed me, that upon one occasion he took matter from one of these little vesicles, with which he inoculated himself, and that it produced the Cow-pox in the most perfect and genuine form. He has since been repeatedly vaccinated, but has thus far remained entirely insensible to its action. The scar which resulted from the inoculation I have examined, and can attest to its bearing every mark of a genuine vaccination.

OF THE COW-POX IN MAN.

From a day and a half to two days after the vaccine virus has been inserted, a small red point may be perceived to mark the spot, which, being pressed gently, and the fingers at the same time drawn carefully over it, will yield a sensation like that from a very small hard body situated beneath the surface of the skin. The redness, likewise, will be perceived to vanish during the pressure, but to return instantly upon its removal. This is the first evidence of the action of the vaccina. The inflamed point now slowly and gradually enlarges. Towards the fifth day it takes on that peculiar action of secretion which is one of the most grand and beautiful features of this affection. A particle of clear and transparent virus may be perceived to have formed during the course of the day, and to be deposited at the very extreme circumference of the yet incipient vesicle ; the cuticle around the centre begins to be raised and separated from the structure beneath, under which clear and watery lymph is deposited. The lymph continues gradually to increase, filling out the extreme edges

of the vesicle, while the centre remains unaltered and in its natural state.

As the affection progresses the secretion of the virus continues, and the surrounding edges become more full, and more prominently elevated above the centre.

On the eighth day the vesicle continues to increase in diameter and elevation ; its circular margin becomes more prominent and distended, from the continued formation of the virus, while the depression of the centre becomes proportionably deeper. The vesicle is now fully formed ; and if at this time punctured with a lancet, the clear and transparent virus will flow out in small crystalline drops upon its side. At this time the virus is perfect, and fit for use,—and at this time *only*. A few hours later an important change takes place in the vesicle, which renders the lymph quite unfit for the purposes of vaccination. I allude to the formation of the areola. This was regarded by the immortal JENNER as a sacred boundary, which should never be passed over in procuring the virus ; and nothing more clearly distinguishes this great man as an accurate observer, than the importance which he has attached to this point. The areola commences very soon after the vesicle has reached its height, generally towards

the evening of the eighth day. It consists of a circle of inflammation around the vesicle of a deep florid colour, commencing from its base, and gradually extending, as it were, by irradiation, for about two inches. The structure beneath becomes at the same time hard, tumid, and painful; and this continues until the redness around the vesicle begins to disappear, or from the eighth until the eleventh day of the affection, during which period the individual sometimes experiences slight symptoms of general indisposition. As the areola advances, the inoculated part becomes tender to the touch; an obtuse pain is frequently felt, extending from it along the inside of the arm to the axilla. The axillary glands swell and become painful, particularly on moving the arm. With these local symptoms the whole system more or less sympathizes; and restlessness, chilliness, languor, a disinclination for food, headache, and stiffness of the joints, sometimes supervene.

As soon as the areola, or inflamed circle around the vesicle, commences, the fluid within the vesicle begins also an important change. Hitherto it had been pearly, and clear as the morning dew; however, as the areola advances, it may be perceived to assume a slightly yellowish tinge; and as the centre of the vesicle becomes darker and darker

in its gradual conversion into a scab, this change of the virus becomes more and more perceptible, until, in the latter stage of the affection, it is in every respect perfectly formed pus.

During the course of the *ninth* day, the areola, or efflorescence, around the vesicle increases, and the parts immediately beneath become hard, tumid, and painful. The vesicle itself becomes more distended with the lymph, so that it now projects considerably above the swollen surface, while the depression in the centre of the vesicle is, at this period, very striking. A light yellowish point in the centre marks the commencing formation of the scab. The fluid contained within the vesicle may already be perceived, by careful attention, to have changed slightly both in its consistency and colour. The change in these respects must necessarily be considerable, to enable the eye to distinguish it thus early. The free motions of the arm begin at this time to be more particularly restrained.

On the *tenth* day the vaccine tumour reaches its height. The arm feels sore, stiff, and heavy. The areola around the vesicle measures two inches in diameter, the pock itself about one-quarter of an inch; the fluid contained within the pock has now become of a yellowish colour, and of a slightly viscid consistence. A scab at this time of a

darkish yellow, or light mahogany colour, occupies all the central part of the pock.

On the *eleventh* day the redness around the vesicle begins to fade away, as also the swelling and hardness of the vaccine tumour. The fluid contained within the vesicle increases in thickness and viscosity; the pain in the armpit, and soreness and stiffness of the whole limb, which have been hitherto experienced, are now very considerably diminished. The process of desiccation has still further advanced, and the pock gradually assumes a darker hue, although at its circumference may yet be seen the yellowish viscid fluid within.

On the *twelfth* day the pain and stiffness of the limb are no longer felt; the redness around the pock has nearly disappeared, as also the swelling of the part. A light mahogany-coloured scab now covers almost its whole surface, which is by degrees turning darker, and becoming more hard and concrete. Underneath the scab the yellowish matter is still retained, but is gradually becoming more and more consistent, and hardening into a scab.

After the *twelfth* day the soreness of the arm entirely disappears, the crust, or scab, continuing from day to day to dry away, and assuming a more compact form, until it completely hardens into a crust. A few days after this its edges begin to be

loosened and slightly raised, till, finally, about the twenty-first day it drops off, leaving the surface beneath covered with the remains of the dried cuticle. "Such are the peculiar symptoms and features which mark the rise, progress, and termination of the *vaccina*."

If, during the action of the *vaccina* upon the system, other affections supervene, as whooping-cough, derangement of the bowels, a fever from worms, or the irritating process of teething, the general irritability of the system will be increased, and all the symptoms attendant upon the *vaccina* will be proportionably augmented.

CAUSES WHICH MODIFY THE REGULAR ACTION OF THE VACCINA.

The most ample opportunities have been afforded me at the New-York Dispensary for observing the progress of the *vaccina*, under all the varied forms which it can assume; yet, in entering upon this important part of the subject, I am constrained to say, that so great is its diversity of ac-

tion, and so numerous are the causes modifying its regular progress and perfect development, that I cannot disguise from myself the difficulty I encounter in portraying them satisfactorily.

Idiosyncrasy, however, appears in this, as in all other diseases, to hold its rank among the modifying causes. Many writers on this subject have mentioned cases *not susceptible* of Cow-pox; several have fallen under my own observation, which, although vaccinated under the most favourable circumstances possible, have, nevertheless, been incapable of being affected by it.

One case, among the many, I would mention, of a young man who, having been vaccinated in infancy without effect, applied to me for the purpose of having it repeated; being at the time exposed to the contagion of Small-pox. As children were daily returning to the institution, with regularly formed Cow-pox vesicles on their arms, ample opportunity was afforded me for effectually testing its powers in the present case; but, although the lymph was employed in a liquid state, from vesicles seven, eight, and nine days old, and no less than *twenty-three* times in succession, in neither instance did it produce the slightest effect; nor did the individual experience any evil consequence from his exposure to the Small-pox. I have like-

wise, after repeating the vaccination in a careful manner, and for a sufficient number of times, to do away with any apprehension of fault in the process, inoculated the Small-pox virus several times, but without exciting any more than a slight redness of the part, which disappeared in three or four days.

I have met with other cases no less remarkable in the opposite extreme ; and having instituted re-vaccination, or *super-vaccination* (as Dr. GREGORY calls it), to a very great extent—probably upon more than *five thousand* persons,—I was thus furnished with a criterion by which to estimate the comparative number of those who were unsuspceptible, as well as those extremely predisposed to this disease ; and I would state, as a curious fact, that the ratio is almost numerically the same. The most susceptible exhibit upon a re-vaccination the disease in almost a perfect form. There may be some slight difference between the vesicles produced by a *first* vaccination and by that of the *second* ; but it would be so trifling as not to excite the attention of an ordinary observer. The only difference would consist in its being smaller, and not attended with so extensive inflammation ; but it is accompanied by a greater degree of itching, and the earlier formation of a scab. Persons ex-

tremely predisposed to Cow-pox will be, upon a first vaccination, affected by it in a magnified form. The vesicle produced will be much larger, seated upon a more tumefied and inflamed base, accompanied by a greater soreness in the armpit, and a greater degree of general irritability.

If, after these appearances have been manifested, a re-vaccination be instituted, a vesicle will be produced, possessing all the characteristics of the genuine Cow-pox, with this difference only, that it will run its course some days sooner.

I vaccinated in April, 1834, Miss M., aged thirteen years. She had not been previously vaccinated. Eight days after, a vesicle resulted of a very large size. On the ninth day the areola measured one inch and a half in diameter. On the tenth day it extended from the shoulder to the elbow. On the eleventh it reached below the elbow; the arm was much tumefied; she experienced great pain in the armpit, and stiffness of the whole limb, attended with considerable fever; the vesicle itself was very much elevated, and over an inch in diameter, perfectly circular, having a small brownish scab in its centre.

On the twelfth day the fever abated. The inflammation around the vesicle faded nearly away, a general yellowish hue taking its place. The sore-

ness and tumefaction had also quite disappeared, the scab covering almost the whole vesicle. On the sixteenth the scab was perfectly formed; on the twenty-third it dropped off. The scar resulting was large, superficial, and presented an unusual number of small indentations or cavities on its surface.

I again vaccinated Miss M. in May. The eighth day after, a vesicle was produced, with its margin distinctly elevated above its centre. The vesicle was clear and pellucid,—the areola just commencing. On the tenth the areola measured two inches in diameter; the centre of the vesicle was depressed, and the circumference elevated above it; the vesicle itself being one-third of an inch in diameter. On the thirteenth the areola quite disappeared. On the nineteenth the scab dropped off.

On the twenty-third of June I again repeated the vaccination. A vesicle was formed on the sixth day, with edges elevated above the centre, though not in so marked a degree as in the preceding instances, nor was the areola so extensive, nor the arm so stiff and sore. A more disagreeable itching was, however, manifested. The redness and tumefaction continued until the ninth day, when they disappeared, and the whole terminated in a small conical scab, which fell off on the thirteenth day.

I repeated the vaccination in this case three times afterward, and discovered that in each instance it produced a marked and decided effect, although each subsequent inoculation was less than that which preceded it. Thus I succeeded six different times in exciting a disease by re-vaccination, more or less resembling that of a first vaccination. It now remained to test whether there still existed any susceptibility to the further action of Cow-pox virus. I therefore instituted re-vaccination, and repeated it from time to time with every possible care, and under the most favourable circumstances, but not the slightest redness of the part could be excited by the virus.

It only remains for me to add, that I have vaccinated upwards of one thousand persons, repeating, in the above manner, one inoculation after another, and met universally with the result I have mentioned.* I have also, after having first fairly

* It is a fact worth noticing, that the vaccine virus, when inserted into the arm of a person who has previously been vaccinated, or has had the Small-pox, will excite an inflammation much more quickly than when inserted for the first time. The spot to which it is applied will, if it produce any effect whatever, exhibit the appearance of a small pimple, resembling very much that caused by a mosquito bite, attended by more or less surrounding inflammation. This will itch very considerably for a day or two, according to the extent of the inflammation pro-

satisfied myself that the individual was no longer susceptible of the action of the vaccine virus, inserted the virus of the Small-pox ; but in no case has it excited more than a redness of the part, which passed off by the third or fourth day. From these facts it follows incontestably that by a single operation of the vaccina upon the system, its full and complete energy is not in every instance exerted, and that some persons are so constituted by nature as to be affected by the Cow-pox several times before that sensibility or predisposition to it is entirely eradicated.

Small-pox will sometimes supervene during the action of the Cow-pox upon the system : under such circumstances, the severity of the former will be mitigated in proportion to the length of time which the latter has progressed prior to its appearance. When both commence their career at the same time, the severity of the Small-pox is lessened but in a slight degree ; and, at the same time, the irregularity of the Cow-pox is much more considerable : on the contrary, when the Small-pox does not manifest itself until the twelfth or fourteenth day after the Cow-pox has commenced

duced, and then quickly die away, leaving, probably, a small amber-coloured scab, having its edges slightly coiled upon itself.

its course, it will appear in the form of the *varioloid*, and be mild or severe according as the individual is more or less naturally predisposed to this particular disease.

Cutaneous diseases not only disturb the regularity of the vaccina, but interfere extensively with its prophylactic influence upon the system. Those eruptions on the skin which are more immediately connected with disturbance of the digestive organs, have a much greater influence upon the vaccine process than those which are unattended by any such derangement. It is important that the effects which these various classes of diseases are capable of producing, should be duly estimated by those who superintend the vaccination.

Chronic affections of the skin, especially those of long standing, as *porrigo*, or scald-head, appear to exert but a very trifling influence over the progress of the vaccina. However, it is extremely probable that the protecting influence of the vaccination in these cases will fail to shield the system entirely from Small-pox ; therefore, it is important that re-vaccination be instituted as soon as the individual shall become exempt from these affections, in order that the full effects may be afforded.

The presence of itch (*scabies*) does not appear to influence in any marked degree the regular ac-

tion of the Cow-pox. I have repeatedly known them to exist together, and, notwithstanding, the Cow-pox has passed through its various stages without any appreciable imperfection of its character.

The more aggravated form of this disease has a much greater control over the vaccine process, and will sometimes prevent its action altogether. Whenever vaccination is performed under these circumstances, it should always be regarded as affording but a partial immunity; and a re-vaccination should always be instituted, whenever the individual becomes exempted from it.

Many other causes prevent the vaccina from imparting its full influence to the system, which requires, on the part of the physician, the most critical attention. Among these may be enumerated worms, the irritating process of teething, diarrhœa, or other affections of the bowels,—colds, whooping-cough,* ophthalmia, scrofula, &c.; and although circumstances may render the vaccination at the

* Whooping-cough is often very much lessened in its severity by vaccination, particularly if it be so contrived that both arrive at their height simultaneously. In order that the full benefit of vaccination may be obtained, it is necessary that the operation be performed in two or three places upon both arms. When thus managed, its effects upon the system is considerably augmented.

time advisable, still a perfect exemption from Small-pox should never, under these circumstances, be expected; on the contrary, after the system has become freed from these affections, a re-vaccination should promptly be instituted, as they tend to preclude that full and perfect influence of the vaccina upon the system which is necessary to completely shield it from Small-pox.

The existence of Small-pox after vaccination will not be esteemed so surprising an event, when we consider how often the vaccina is forced upon the system when it is least fitted to receive it. In former times, when inoculation for the Small-pox was in vogue, the utmost care was taken to prepare the system beforehand for its reception. For this purpose one or two weeks were spent in dieting and taking medicine. This had a twofold effect: the Small-pox was rendered more mild and safe, and the system being thus clear from other affections, it received its first impression so fully

Its tendency is to shorten the paroxysms as well as mitigate the severity of the cough; and also to abridge the duration of the disease itself. The period of the cough at which vaccination would be most likely to prove beneficial, is when it has become perfectly established, or about the second week from its commencement.

and perfectly as never after to be susceptible of its recurrence.*

In inoculating for Cow-pox nowadays, we witness quite a different practice. Suppose a physician has half a dozen children to vaccinate,—the following are the steps taken for its accomplishment:—He begs of his brother physician a *point* of vaccine virus, with which he inoculates one of these children. Eight days after, he calls to examine the state of the disease. He finds it advanced sufficiently far to enable him to procure from it the necessary quantity of virus wherewith to inoculate the others, who are then, of course, all vaccinated, taking for granted that nothing extraordinary affects them at the time. Any *slight* derangement of the system is necessarily overlooked, for this does not constitute a sufficient impediment to the immediate introduction of the vaccine virus,

* The practice of vaccinating only in a single place, and thus producing but one vesicle, has likewise been the cause of much disappointment in imparting security from Small-pox. The risk of the vesicle's being irritated by the clothing, or some other cause, or of its even being broken open by an accident, and above all, the probability of its being intruded upon designedly, and robbed of its lymph, teaches us the importance of vaccinating in more than one place. Therefore, in order to derive the full benefit of vaccination, at least one vesicle should be suffered to pass through its various stages, unirritated and unmolested.

which is now at hand, and the inoculation cannot be foregone. The children are therefore all vaccinated. What now is the result? Does the physician return sufficiently often to observe the progress of the disease he has excited, to enable him to *judge* whether it be in every particular perfect and genuine? Or are there any witnesses competent to pronounce that security from Small-pox has resulted from the vaccination? If the physician sees the children afterward, it may be because he wishes to procure a further supply of the vaccine virus; or, perhaps, he entertains a particular partiality for the family, and would pay them a special attention. But even in that case how often does he return? Is it sufficiently often to be assured that the Cow-pox progressed unmolested, arrived at maturity, faded away, and without the intervention of any cause, throughout its whole progress, calculated to interrupt its regularity and thwart its beneficial effects upon the system? And if in any case a marked irregularity has taken place, is a re-vaccination carefully instituted?

The opposite of this is too well known to need any special notice here. Children are often vaccinated who at the time are labouring under some derangement of the system, which is sufficient to

interrupt the regular progress and perfect development of the disease. Re-vaccination was not, until very lately, practised to any considerable extent; and the consequence is, that very many persons are at this moment suffering from the Small-pox, in a milder or more aggravated form, owing, doubtless, in a great measure, to that want of proper attention and care above alluded to in the conduct of vaccination.

EVIDENCES OF A PERFECT CONSTITUTIONAL AFFECTION.

The responsibility of the physician is never greater than when he assumes the guardianship of his patient from that loathsome and direful pestilence the Small-pox; and consequently it becomes of the highest importance to ascertain the period when vaccination has afforded entire immunity from this terrific disease. The effect of vaccination varies so materially in different individuals, that, unless we are almost constantly observing its action, we may sometimes forget the standard by which we judge of its perfection. The evidences

that the constitution had become fully impressed with the vaccine influence were, agreeably to Dr. JENNER, derived from the appearances of the vesicles themselves. It cannot be denied, that by a careful attention to the progress of the vaccina, a pretty accurate judgment may be formed in this respect; but in the multitudes that are vaccinated, so imperceptible are the shades which separate the perfect from the imperfect vaccination, that an exact estimate of the point where one terminates and the other commences cannot be obtained.

An opinion has prevailed that the Cow-pox may in some instances exist merely as a local affection, without imparting to the system generally any of its prophylactic virtues, though at the same time it may present every appearance of being perfectly genuine.* With regard to this opinion, I must confess I have never met with sufficient proof to

* If the Cow-pox can exist *locally*, pass through its various stages, secrete virus capable of propagating itself in other individuals, without imparting any of its protecting powers to the system, why may it not exist in the same perfect manner in those who have previously had the Small-pox, or who had been vaccinated? And yet such an occurrence has never been even alluded to by any of the writers and experimenters on this subject. But ought not such a circumstance to occur equally well after Small-pox or Cow-pox as before it?

satisfy myself of its correctness. If, however, the fact be as stated, how much greater care is required in propagating this affection !

“It is well known,” says Dr. BRYCE, in his excellent *Treatise on the Cow-pox*, “that the human constitution will resist the contagion of Small-pox at one time, even although the person has not formerly been affected by that disease ; and at another time suffer severely from its attacks. Similar causes may exist in the constitution, and render a person unsusceptible for a time of the particular action of Cow-pox ; and these causes, or others, may so act as to render the inoculation of Cow-pox, *though, with regard to the local inflammation, it may appear perfectly regular*, merely a local affection. Instances of this kind have already been detailed above ; and it is thought that inattention to this circumstance, viz. that the action of the virus of Cow-pox may be often merely local, has been a fruitful source of error and disappointment in conducting the new inoculation. These instances of the mere local action of the virus of Cow-pox, which have been mistaken for the regular constitutional affection, very forcibly point out a desideratum, viz. *a test of a constitutional affection*, in conducting the inoculation of Cow-pox.” To avoid this source of error, Dr. BRYCE recom-

mends that about the end of the fifth day after the individual has been vaccinated, the operation be repeated on the opposite arm ; and if both succeed, and arrive at maturity at the same time, it will prove that the affection has been constitutional. " In this way," says Dr. BRYCE, " a clear and well-defined mark of a constitutional affection may be obtained."

In treating of those affections which modify the action of the Cow-pox, it will be perceived that I have mentioned instances in which that disease has been excited several times in the same individual ; and that, as the vaccination was repeated, a less and less regular effect was produced, until, finally, by its continued action the system became altogether incapable of being affected by it. These cases cannot be attributed to the mere local action of the vaccina, inasmuch as upon a re-vaccination it was found that, although the disease was excited in almost a regular form, and was closely allied in appearance to the first affection, it nevertheless exhibited certain signs of having been modified by it. From these facts, it follows incontestably, that, by a single operation of the vaccina upon the system, the full and complete energy of the vaccina is not in every instance exerted, and that some persons are so constituted by nature as to be in-

fluenced by the Cow-pox several times before that sensibility or predisposition to it is entirely destroyed.

Dr. GEORGE PEARSON was the first who announced the fact, that both Small-pox and Cow-pox produced in the system an insensibility, not only to its own recurrence, but also to the recurrence of the other. However, the practical advantages resulting from this discovery do not appear to have been adopted by him.

Much uncertainty as to the effects of a re-vaccination appears hitherto to have prevailed among medical men. The following remarks by Dr. JOHN BELL, in his excellent Treatise on Small-pox, published in the New-York Medical and Physical Journal, vol. iv. No. 4, evidence how little was known of the laws regulating the action of the Cow-pox. The doctor observes—

“Would it be *unreasonable* to suppose that the greater or less degree of influence which the Kine-pox has previously exerted upon the system, graduates, if the expression be admissible, the severity of the Small-pox? That, in the first instance, the system is not wholly under the influence of the vaccine disease, but its susceptibility lessening with every repetition, till at length, coming fully under its control, it is able com-

pletely to resist its subsequent introduction? That the power which the constitution possesses of resisting the action of Small-pox, depends upon the degree of perfection with which the Kine-pox has run its course? This opinion is far from being chimerical,—for we have every gradation in the varioloid, from a close resemblance to the Small-pox in its confluent form down to a mild disorder, attended by few and scattered tubercular eruptions, so slight as not to prevent the individual from attending to his ordinary concerns.”

The importance depending on these peculiarities of constitution, and of repeating the vaccination whenever there is manifested an extreme susceptibility to the vaccina, have never hitherto been attended to in propagating this affection; but, on the contrary, if there resulted from the vaccination an *exceedingly* sore arm, it is *notorious* that a more *perfect* security is thereby anticipated from it; and yet that very extreme soreness, if it result solely from the action of the vaccina upon the system, is in itself a *conclusive reason for repeating the vaccination*. Small-pox never attacks an individual the second time, when in the first instance it was mild and little felt; it revisits, on the contrary, those who upon the first occasion had it in its most

terrible and dangerous form :* and so with Cow-pox ; if, in its primary action, it excites but a small vesicle, and that unattended by any considerable soreness, the necessity of repeating the vaccination is of less importance ; and, indeed, it will universally be found less capable of producing any inflammation or soreness of the part.

The sore produced by a re-vaccination has been heretofore regarded as spurious, and as entirely without benefit to the system. The term *spurious*, however, which Dr. JENNER first applied at random, to designate all aberrations from the ordinary appearance of the vaccinc disease, has been the fruitful source of much contention. It was in truth an unfortunate term.† Of late it has been

* “This affection,” says Cazenave, speaking of Small-pox, “may be divided into primitive and secondary; the violence of the latter being much less than that of the former.”—Page 138.

† “The term *spurious Cow-pox*, to my conception, either conveys an erroneous notion, or has no definite meaning: for I am unable to perceive that it can mean any thing but a particular and specific disease, or else mean any local affection whatever, produced by inoculating animal matter or other substances, or by the mere puncture. Now, first, a specific local affection which is characterized by a distinguishing set of appearances, occasioned by animal matters of the kinds alluded to, has not, as far as I know, fallen under observation and description. Second, the local affections produced by so many different kinds of animal or

employed by some to express any deviations from the regular appearance of the vaccine vesicle; but in this sense it surely ought not to be employed. The effect produced by a second vaccination differs very considerably from that of the first; still they are both genuine, both result from the inoculation of real Cow-pox virus, although one should appear so much more perfectly vesicular than the other. To apply, therefore, the term *spurious* to designate the secondary action of the vaccine upon the system, is utterly without authority; and as it conveys no definite, but rather an erroneous idea, it had better never have been employed.

The only evidences, then, which can be appealed to with confidence that the vaccine has produced a perfect constitutional effect upon the system, and

other extraneous matter, or by mere punctures, not yet discriminated by specific phenomena, cannot have notions of them excited by the words *spurious Cow-pox*; because their just import is what is defined in the mind. Here then is a gross violation of the laws of philology, well calculated for producing confusion, mistakes, and disputes. According, then, to this representation, in order to disabuse the public from the errors of the terms *spurious Cow-pox*, it appears to me we should substitute the phrase 'local affection,' not having the distinguishing characters of the Cow-pox, and excited by an agent intended to produce the Cow-pox."—*An Examination of the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, by* GEORGE PEARSON, M.D., F.R.S., &c. &c., p. 110. 1802.

thereby shielded it from Small-pox, is to be derived from the insensibility of the system to its further action.

The inoculation for *Small-pox* has been heretofore regarded as the only satisfactory test of the efficacy of the vaccination; but that afforded by re-vaccination is, in every sense, and under every circumstance, equally valuable and equally certain. For the correctness of this statement I appeal to the future experience of others, perfectly conscious from my own experience of its indubitable authenticity.

I have lately seen a notice of the results of a series of experiments performed by Dr. HEIM in the royal army of Würtemberg, which go to establish conclusively the necessity of a re-vaccination. Previous to the doctor's appointment to the army, it was the practice of the surgeons to vaccinate all those of the recruits who had not what was esteemed *good* vaccine scars (the scar being regarded as a satisfactory evidence that the first vaccination was perfect), or who had never been inoculated for Small-pox. These measures not having been found sufficient to stay the progress of the Small-pox, which raged with much violence among them, an order was issued directing the indiscriminate

vacination of all recruits, without reference to the vaccine scars.

The number of recruits, from 1829 to 1833, upon whom re-vaccination was performed, was 4802, and the following were the results:—

With perfect success	1208
With modified or imperfect success	356
With success, but not accurately specified	914
<i>Without any effect</i>	1724
	<hr/>
	4802

From this it seems that over one-half of these recruits had not in the first instance been vaccinated in a perfect manner, and consequently were not protected from Small-pox. The report goes on to state, what is certainly the most interesting circumstance, “that re-vaccination passed in a few weeks through all the regiments of the garrison; and that the spreading of the epidemic Small-pox was set real bounds to by it.” Thus much in favour of a perfect vaccination!

OF THE VIRUS PROPER TO BE EMPLOYED IN
PROPAGATING THIS AFFECTION.

The most important part of the whole process of inoeulating for the Cow-pox is involved in the obtaining pure and genuine virus. Those who have been long engaged in this inoculation,—who have witnessed the result produced by virus derived from different sources,—will fully sustain me in the assertion, that in obtaining a supply of this fluid vastly more caution is necessary, and more trouble and anxiety are experienced, than in all the other processes required in propagating this affection; for it often occurs in the development of this disease, that after the vesicles have nearly arrived at maturity, some causes interfere sufficient to disturb their perfect regularity, and render the virus they contain unfit and improper for the purpose of inoeulation. These causes, moreover, are only to be known and estimated by experience and careful attention.

The use of improper virus not only proves ineffectual in protecting the system from Small-pox, but is capable also of engendering a variety of

anomalous affections, particularly eruptions upon the skin, which are both tedious and distressing in their cure.

Dr. BRYCE has afforded ample testimony, in his work published as early as 1806, of the inefficacy of the virus when improperly selected. He observes, that "An opinion is too commonly adopted that the conducting of the inoculation for Cow-pox is of so trifling a nature as scarcely to deserve the attention of medical men; and that the affection, as being more safe and easy for the patient than the inoculated Small-pox, may be given by any one, has also tended much to bring discredit upon the efficacy of this new inoculation. From this circumstance, persons little acquainted with the affection have yet engaged to conduct the inoculation of Cow-pox, and have brought disappointment and misery to all concerned.

"I have lately been informed, that the greater part of the children in two parishes in Scotland were inoculated in this way (certainly with the best intention on the part of the operators), but the result was, that the Small-pox came among them soon afterward, and every one thus inoculated became affected with that dreadful disease; while those few who had been inoculated by persons acquainted with the appearances in Cow-pox, en-

tirely escaped. Although, therefore, the inoculated Cow-pox may, indeed, *as a disease*, be regarded as trifling, and little deserving the attention of medical men, yet, as a certain preventive of one of the most loathsome and fatal distempers which affect the human race, it is of much importance, and highly deserving of the most minute attention from those who undertake to superintend its progress.”*

In procuring the vaccine virus for the purpose of inoculation, it is absolutely necessary to be assured of the health of the individuals from whom it is taken, and of their freedom from all hereditary diseases, as scrofula, &c. In general, a perfect and regular vaccine vesicle will not be formed where other affections already exist in the system. However, instances sometimes occur where the Cow-pox co-exists with other diseases, and without becoming in any appreciable degree influenced by them. The rule in these cases advocated by some, that “a perfect vesicle is all that is required to produce a perfect vesicle,” is both dangerous and fallacious; it having been abundantly proved that Cow-pox becomes altered and changed in its

* “Practical Observations on the Inoculation of Cow-pox,” by JAMES BRYCE, M.D, page 168.

character, by the influence of other diseases operating at the same time upon the system.

Dr. HEIM of Würtemberg observes, that virus taken from adults possesses a greater efficacy in its operation upon adults, than virus taken from infants or children. The truth of this remark needs further proof. The virus taken from children has never, within my observation, failed to shield adults from Small-pox, when the operation has been properly conducted through all its stages. Children being usually more quiet and inactive than adults, the vaccine vesicles are not so liable to become irritated and inflamed, and consequently the affection proceeds in a more regular form. Hence there is a decided advantage (independent of that derived from the greater purity of their blood, and the more healthy state of their systems generally) in the virus derived from infants over that of adults.

Much has been said with regard to the period of the affection at which the virus should be obtained, and there still exists a diversity of opinions on this subject. If, however, attention be paid to the development and progress of the vaccine vesicle, it will be perceived first to commence with a slight redness and elevation of the point to which the virus was applied, which continues for the

space of eight days to enlarge, and finally to assume the most perfectly vesicular appearance. Thus far there has been no redness, inflammation, or hardness around the pock; nor has it been attended by any particular feeling of soreness. The virus within the vesicle has also been clear and pellucid, and at this period only should it be procured for the purpose of inoculation. After the eighth day a decided change takes place, which is manifested by a swelling and inflammation around the vesicle, together with a painful feeling and stiffness of the whole limb. This change is a consequence of the general action of the system, caused by an effort to relieve itself from the action of the vaccine virus, and may be regarded as a common inflammation, in contradistinction to the specific inflammation excited by the vaccina. Its effects upon the pock are to excite a more profuse secretion of the fluid within it, and at the same time render it more yellowish and viscid. Although this change is not completed under two or three days, yet at a very early period it may be perceived to have commenced. If virus be taken from the vesicle after this change has commenced, for the purpose of inoculating others, it will be found to communicate an irregular Cow-pox, which, instead of being clear and pellucid, will be opaque

and turbid,—being accompanied throughout its whole course by an irregular circle of inflammation around it, and a great degree of itching. The pock, likewise, will not present that marked and beautiful depression in its centre which is one of its most striking features. Moreover, the impression it will produce upon the system will not be such as to shield it perfectly from Small-pox. No fact more clearly evidences the importance of paying strict attention to the propagation of the vaccina.

Dr. JENNER regarded the efflorescence, or areola, which is formed around the vesicle, about the evening of the eighth day, as a sacred boundary which should never be passed over in procuring the virus. In districts where there is no regular supply of the lymph, physicians are compelled to transgress this important rule; but some I have known to select it even after it had become *turbid*, without the plea of necessity to offer in defence of the practice. Unquestionably much of the inefficacy on the part of the vaccina to shield the system from Small-pox which is at present manifested, may be attributed to this circumstance. Dr. BRYCE remarks on this subject, that he has “inoculated with virus which was

taken at the end of the eleventh day from the inoculation, and after the areola had been completely formed, and with it had produced the affection regular in all its stages ; but I have observed," continues the doctor, "that the virus, when taken at this stage of the affection, was less certain of taking effect, and that it frequently happened that although the appearances were favourable for the first three or four days, yet that they would then gradually die away, and no vesicle be produced ; at other times virus of this description has produced a pustule of considerable size, and one having a considerable degree of redness around the base, but which was, nevertheless, easily *distinguished from Cow-pox*. This pustule has an *elevated* centre, which gives it more or less the appearance of a common phlegmon ; there is little or no hardness around its base, and the contained fluid quickly runs into suppuration, so as by the sixth day to contain well-formed pus. After this, it quickly dries into an opaque crust, very different from that described as the common termination of the Cow-pox vesicle. *It must be confessed, however, that there is often considerable difficulty in distinguishing between an affection of this kind and that of the Cow-pox, as the former*

*frequently exhibits almost every variety of appearance, from that wished for to that of a common phlegmon.**

The crust, or scab, has also been used to a considerable extent in propagating the Cow-pox.

Dr. BRYCE was the first who discovered that the scab was capable of exciting the vaccina in a perfect manner; and since that period it has been in general use throughout the world.

The remark has been made, that "since the genuine vaccina may be produced by the use of the concrete scab, why may not the virus be taken from the pock for this purpose, with equal propriety, at any period of its existence?" To this Dr. BRYCE has given a very satisfactory answer in his work before mentioned, and which is here presented:—

"With regard to the formation of the crusts, attention to the progress of the affection will show that a vesicle is formed about the fourth day, and that on the fifth or sixth a crust is formed in the centre of this vesicle, which can be nothing else than the limpid fluid concreted. By degrees the size of the vesicle increases, more cells are formed,

* "Practical Observations on the Inoculation of Cow-pox," by JAMES BRYCE. Page 117.

and more fluid effused into them ; and in proportion as this takes place at the margin of the vesicle, the size of the central crust is also increased. The central crust, therefore, is not formed from a fluid which has been in a stagnant state during the whole course of the affection, and which might be supposed on this account to have undergone some change, or to have been converted into purulent matter, unfit for propagating the affection ; but, on the contrary, is formed from the most active virus, secreted from the fourth day until the time of the vesicle having attained its greatest size ; for this virus is every hour hardening into these crusts, in which state it seems incapable of further change, at least for a very considerable time.”—BRYCE, pages 130 and 131.

In order that the scab may possess all the efficacy of the recent lymph, it is necessary that the vesicle, from which it is formed, pass through its various stages unharmed, and that no virus be taken from it. If the vesicle be suffered in this way to dry into a scab, it will be of considerable thickness, usually circular, and of a light mahogany colour ; its upper surface will be shining smooth, with a circular elevation around its margin, while its under surface will be unequal and

rough, retaining upon it the remains of the dried cuticle.

Several processes have been devised for inoculating with the scab: among the most deserving of notice is an instrument consisting of a small silver tube, sharpened at one end, like a pen, having a moveable wire so adapted as to fill up the barrel. In using it, the scab is first pulverized, and a portion of the powder is placed within the hollow-pointed end of the tube. It is then inserted under the cuticle, and the wire gently pressed down upon the contents, which are thus deposited under the cuticle.

Very young children can scarcely be vaccinated in this way, on account of the delicacy of their skins and their incessant motions; besides, the operation is attended by considerable pain.

An easier method, and one probably equally certain, is that of scarifying a small place on the arm, in the way recommended for using the recent lymph, and applying the scab, after having first converted it into a kind of paste by means of water.

AGE MOST SUITABLE FOR VACCINATION.

Cow-pox is a disease which, although very mild and safe in its operation, is, nevertheless, not so well borne by very young infants as by children from *ten* to *fifteen* weeks old. The presence of those affections peculiar to early infancy, and the delicacy with which they should be treated, constitute a sufficient objection to their very early vaccination. If, however, the child be in any way exposed to the contagion of Small-pox, vaccination ought not to be one moment delayed. Infants have repeatedly been vaccinated when less than a week old, without the least unfavourable circumstance resulting.

As early, often, as the third or fourth month the irritating process of teething commences, which, being attended by more or less constitutional disturbance, evidences how unsuitable that period is to the operation of the vaccina. I am, moreover, fully persuaded that if the vaccination be instituted at this period, although it may, to ordinary observers, manifest its usual regularity, it will, never-

theless, fall short of emancipating the system entirely from the influence of Small-pox.

In general, then, the most proper period for the vaccination of children is when they are from ten to fifteen weeks old.

The health and vigour of the child should also be attended to in communicating this affection. All diseases, however mild or unimportant in themselves, so long as they produce any effect upon the general system, tend to impair the beneficial influence of the vaccina.

Now, it unfortunately happens that children are vaccinated when it is most convenient for the family or the physician, rather than when it is most suitable for the child; and the numerous instances of Small-pox after vaccination, or *varioloid*, may be in a great measure attributable to inattention to the proper condition of the child for its reception.

PROCESS OF VACCINATING.

Various methods have been adopted for inoculating for Cow-pox. Some prefer introducing

the virus immediately under the cuticle, by first raising it with a lancet, and then inserting under it a piece of quill pointed for that purpose, and armed with the virus. In some instances this is cut off quite short, and retained under the cuticle for some time by means of a piece of court-plaster, where it is suffered to remain until the arm begins to feel sore.

The objections to this method are, that it causes much pain, particularly in children, is not so readily performed, and applies the lymph necessarily to a very small surface. The advocates for the practice say, that it produces a less flow of blood, which, it is well known, if considerable, so much dilutes the virus, and at the same time tends to remove it so far from the part as to prevent its action altogether. No process, however, can be adopted which, without proper care, can guard us from that source of failure.

Pieces of thread have also been used, charged with the virus, and then applied to a delicate scratch or incision in the arm. This process is attended with less pain than the former, though not with so general success.

The process most approved is that of scarifying minutely a small spot just sufficiently to cause blood, and applying the virus in such a manner as

to commingle it with the blood produced; it is then suffered to dry as speedily as possible, that it may be retained immediately within the scarifications.

If too much blood flows, the virus will be carried away, and, consequently, no effect will be produced. A very small portion of blood only is required, just sufficient to wash off the virus placed on the instrument. The advantages which this process possesses over the former are, that it is less difficult to perform, occupies less time, and creates less pain.

However, success in vaccinating depends more upon the dexterity with which the operation is performed than upon any peculiar process which may be adopted, the object being merely to bring the vaccine virus in contact with the absorbent vessels, and there suffering it to remain.

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Circumstances independent of Contagion and Mortality which attend Small-pox.

- 1st. One in three has the Small-pox in a dangerous form.
- 2d. It produces eruptions, numerous, painful, and disgusting.
- 3d. Occasions confinement.
- 4th. Loss of time; and,
- 5th. Expense; often ruining the prospects of families, affecting likewise the prosperity of towns, particularly those of a commercial nature.
- 6th. Renders every precaution to prevent its spread unavailing.
- 7th. Medical treatment necessary both during the disease and afterward.
- 8th. Leaves pits, scars, seams, &c., disfiguring the skin, especially the face; and,
- 9th. Is followed by scrofula, in every form, diseases of the skin, glands, joints, &c., blindness, deafness, &c. &c.

COW-POX.

Not contagious; and, when properly conducted, uniformly mild, inoffensive, free from pain or danger, and an infallible preventive of Small-Pox. Never fatal.

During a long series of years, the Cow-pox has been considered as a preventive against Small-pox. Many persons have had the disease, accidentally, from the cow before the inoculation with vaccine virus was known, and remained *unsusceptible* of Small-pox, notwithstanding every *effort* was made to *excite* that disease, and that, too, at *frequent* and *distant* intervals.

Circumstances which characterize the Cow-pox.

- 1st. It is attended by *no danger*.
- 2d. Produces a pustule on *the part inoculated only*.
- 3d. Occasions *neither confinement,*
- 4th. *Loss of time, nor,*
- 5th. *Expense.*
- 6th. Demands no other *precaution* than such as respects the *conduct of the inoculation*.
- 7th. Requires *no medicine*.
- 8th. Leaves *no deformity nor disfiguration; and,*
- 9th. *Excites no subsequent diseases.*

New-York, April, 1835.

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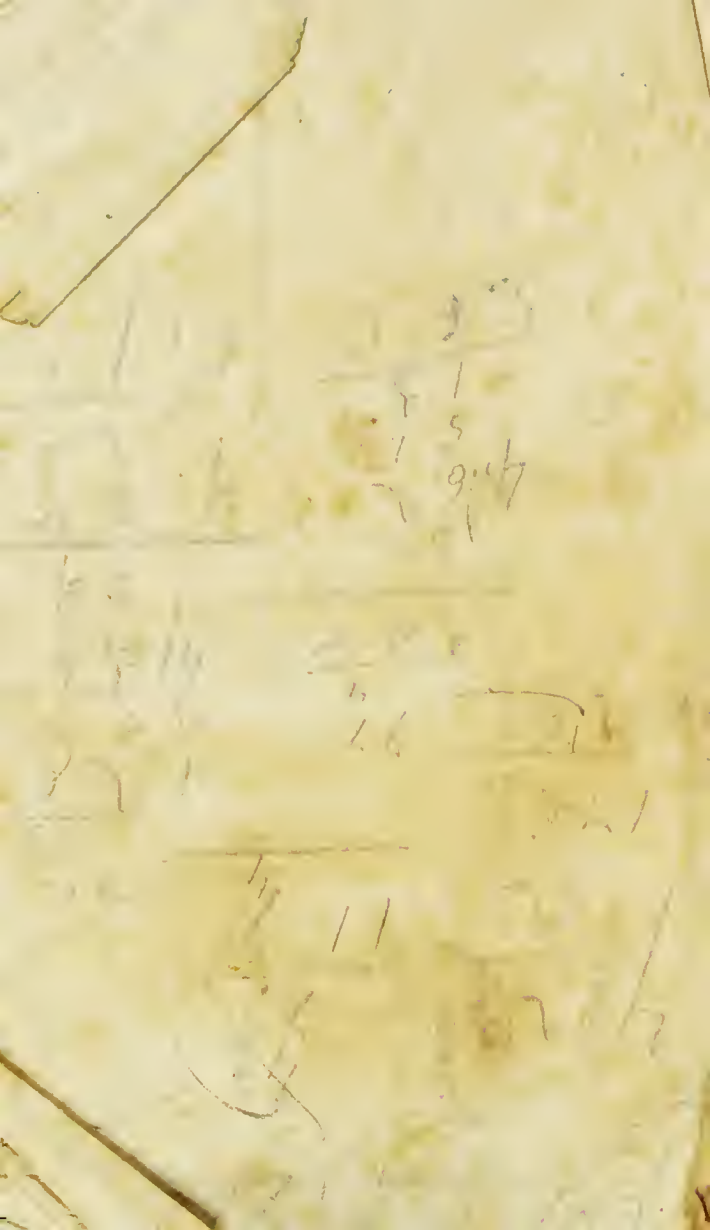
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