For the National Intelligencer.

[We have received the following important communications respecting the state of Vaccine Inoculation in England.

We present them to the public under an assurance that every intelligent physician in our country, will actively co-operate in introducing it in room of the small pox inoculation.]

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

VACCINE POCK INSTITUTION,

(LONDON)

FOR INOCULATING THE POOR.

President—The right honorable the Earl of Cholmondeley.

Vice-Presidents—Right hon. Lord Petre, F. R. S. &c.—Sir William Lee, Bart.—Sir George Baker, Bart. F. R. S. &c.—H. J. De Salis, D. D. F. R. S.—William Adam, Esq.—William Devaynes, Esq. M. P.

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Secretary and *Collector*—Mr. William Sancho.

Those who are acquainted with only a part of the history of the small-pox, scarcely take into their contemplation more than the advantages of the *inoculated* over the *natural small-pox*, in the points of preservation of the lives of individuals, and the substitution of a disease generally slight, for a disease generally severe: and such persons imagine, that the practice of inoculation neither requires, nor is, perhaps, capable of farther improvement. But those who are more extensively acquainted with the history of the small-pox, know that it is productive of a great deal of mischief, notwithstanding the advantages of inoculation—For,

1. Under the best treatment, a certain proportion of persons die in the inoculated small-pox; and although the proportion of deaths to the recoveries may not exceed five out of a thousand patients, the distress occasioned by these fatal cases is more severely felt than when such cases occur in the casual disease; therefore the substitution of a milder disease will contribute to lessen the distress which would thereby be occasioned.

2. It seems fair to calculate, that, in the inoculated small-pox, one in twenty-five patients undergoes a severe disease.

3. The numerous sources of the small-pox infection now preclude every prospect of extinguishing this disease; and unless inoculation were universally practised, it is most probable that the proportional mortality by the natural small pox is rather increased than diminished, in consequence of the more extensive dissemination of the infection by inoculation.

4. In a certain proportion of inoculated cases of small-pox, deformities of the skin are produced, which no practitioner can be answerable for preventing in any instance. Diseases also are frequently excited by inoculation, to which a disposition pre-existed in the constitution.

5. In particular families, and in particular states of the constitution, as in pregnancy, &c. the small-pox is an exceedingly dangerous disease, even by inoculation. Now it is manifest, from the accounts which have been collected of the disorder called by the name of the cow-pock, and particularly from the experience by inoculation of it since January 1799, that the hurtful effects of the small-pox above stated may be prevented, by substituting for it the inoculation of the cow-pock—Because,

1. Of probably above sixty thousand persons in Europe who have had the inoculated cow-pock, it is very doubtful whether four have died of the inoculation. There is, however, good ground for believing, that the proportional mortality will not be greater than here stated.

2. Not a single well-attested instance has been produced, among more than 10,000 of the above persons known to have been constitutionally affected with the inoculated vaccine pock, and who were subsequently inoculated for the small-pox, of this disease being taken, and in those few instances which have been supposed cases to the contrary, there was every reason to believe the inoculated disease was local; and traditionally, this fact has been established time immemorial, with regard to the casual cow-pock.

3. It may safely be affirmed, that the inoculated cow-pock is generally a much slighter disease than the inoculated small-pox; and that the proportion of severe cases in the latter, is to the former as at least fifty to one.

4. It does not appear that the genuine vaccine pock can be propagated like the small-pox, by effluvia from persons labouring under it. Hence, if the vaccine inoculation should be universally instituted in place of the small-pox, it is reasonable to conclude, that this most loathsome and fatal malady will be extinguished; and, like the sweating sickness, plague, certain kinds of leprosy, &c. be known in this country only by name.

5. It does not appear that the vaccine effluvia like the small-pox, can be conveyed so as to produce the disease indirectly from diseased persons, by adhering to clothes, furniture, bedding, letters, &c. Hence no danger of its propagation in these channels is to be apprehended from the universal practice of the inoculation of the cow-pock. Further, it is highly important to consider other very great advantages of the vaccine inoculation over that of the small-pox, which are, besides those already mentioned, that it may be practised in the state of pregnancy, in infancy, and in all ages, generally with little or no inconvenience, being almost always a perfectly mild disease. It may be practised on a part of a family, without any danger of infecting the rest: and of course it may be introduced into places and towns to any extent, not only without endangering those undergoing the disease, but, from its not being infectious by effluvia, without any danger of communicating it to others who have had the small-pox. And, even at this day, in some places, the small-pox being looked upon as a plague, the inoculation is prohibited under the strictest regulations; but if the advantages of the new inoculation should be understood by people so circumstanced, it is hardly to be doubted that the vaccine inoculation will, on the first breaking out of the small-pox, be adopted.

6. No danger is to be apprehended from the interference of the small-pox; for it has been abundantly proved, that if a person is infected with small-pox effluvia previous to the cow-pock inoculation, and the small-pox takes place at the same time with the cow-pock, that the former disease is commonly mitigated by the latter. And there is now good evidence to shew, that small-pox like eruptions never appear, except on those subjects who at the time of inoculation for the cow-pock, had been exposed to variolous effluvia.

7. It has been found that a person, whose constitution has distinctly undergone the vaccine disease, is in future unsusceptible of the same disorder. Hence no objection can be made to the new inoculation, as was once urged, on account of its being believed, that, by the commutation of the small-pox for the vaccine pock, an eruptive disease would be introduced, to which the same person would be repeatedly liable.

8. It does not appear that those who have already gone through the small-pox are susceptible of the vaccine disease, as was a little time ago believed. Hence no objection can be urged on the score of persons who have already gone through the small-pox being liable to a new infectious disease, by the introduction of the vaccine inoculation.

9. Experience shews, that there is no reason to apprehend the smallest chance of deformities of the skin from the vaccine inoculation.

10. The extensive practice of the new inoculation in the present and former year, and the accounts of the disease in the casual way, do not shew that any other disease will be excited subsequently, which is peculiarly imputable to the new practice.

It may be useful to add, that the present institution is perhaps the best imaginable for procuring evidence to inform those who are unacquainted with the new practice; for determining all doubtful points relating to it, and for discovering errors; as every case will be registered; every improvement be made under the direction of the medical establishment belonging to the institution; and the results of the practice will be reported to the governors.

From the above comparative statement it is manifest, that it is highly to the interest of the public to adopt universally the inoculation of the vaccine pock in place of the small-pox.

ON

THE ORIGIN

OF THE

VACCINE INNOCULATION.

By Edward Jenner, M. D. F. R. S. &c.

MY inquiry into the nature of the Cow Pox commenced upwards of twenty-five years ago. My attention to this singular disease was first excited by observing, that among those whom in the country I was frequently called upon to inoculate many resisted every effort to give them the Small pox. These patients I found had undergone a disease they called the Cow Pox, contracted by milking cows affected with a peculiar eruption on their teats. On inquiry, it appeared that it had been known among the dairies time immemorial, and that a vague opinion prevailed that it was a preventative of the Small Pox. This opinion I found was, comparatively new among them; for all the older farmers declared they had no such idea in their early days—a circumstance that seemed easily to be accounted for, from my knowing that the common people were very rarely inoculated for the Small Pox, till that practice was rendered general by the improved method introduced by the Suttons: so that the working people of the dairies were seldom put to the test of the preventive powers of the Cow-Pox.

In the course of the investigation of this subject, which, like all others of a complex & intricate nature, presented many difficulties, I found that some of those *who seemed to have undergone the Cow Pox*, nevertheless, on inoculation with the Small Pox, felt its influence just the same as if no disease had been communicated to them by the cow. This occurrence led me to inquire among the medical practitioners in the country around me, who all agreed in this sentiment, that the Cow Pox was not to be relied upon as a certain preventative of the Small Pox. This for a while damped, but did not extinguish, my ardor; for as I proceeded, I had the satisfaction to learn that the cow was subject to some varieties of spontaneous eruptions upon her teats; that they were all capable of communicating sores to the hands of the milkers; and that whatever sore was derived from the animal was called in the dairy the Cow Pox. Thus I surmounted a great obstacle, and, in consequence, was led to form a distinction between these diseases, one of which only I have denominated the *true*, the others the *spurious*, Cow Pox, as they possess no specific power over the constitution. This impediment to my progress was not long removed, before another, of far greater magnitude in its appearances, started up. There were not wanting instances to prove, that when the true Cow Pox broke out among the cattle at a dairy, a person who had milked an infected animal, and had thereby apparently gone through the disease in common with others, was liable to receive the Small Pox afterwards. This, like the former obstacle, gave a painful check to my fond and aspiring hopes: but reflecting that the operations of Nature are generally uniform, and that it was not probable the human constitution (having undergone the Cow Pox) should in some instances be perfectly shielded from the Small Pox, and in many others remain unprotected, I resumed my labors with redoubled ardor. The result was fortunate; for I now discovered that the virus of Cow Pox was liable to undergo progressive changes, from the same causes precisely as that of Small Pox; and that when it was applied to the human skin in its degenerated state, it would produce the ulcerative effects in as great a degree as when it was not decomposed, and sometimes far greater; but having lost *its specific properties*, it was incapable of producing that change upon the human frame which is requisite to render it unsusceptible of the variolous contagion: so that it became evident a person might milk a cow one day, and having caught the disease, be for ever secure; while another person, milking the same cow the next day, might feel the influence of the virus in such a way, as to produce a sore or sores, and in consequence of this might experience an indisposition to a considerable extent; yet, as has been observed, the specific quality being lost, the constitution would receive no peculiar impression.

Here the close analogy between the virus of Small Pox and of Cow Pox becomes remarkably conspicuous; since the former when taken from a recent pustule, and immediately used, gives the perfect Small Pox to the person on whom it is inoculated; but when taken in a far advanced stage of the disease, or when (although taken early) previously to its insertion, it be exposed to such agents as, according to the established laws of nature, cause its decomposition, it can no longer be relied on as effectual. This observation will fully explain the source of those errors which have been committed by many inoculators of the Cow Pox. Conceiving the whole process to be so extremely simple, as not to admit of a mistake, they have ben heedless about the state of the Vaccine Virus; and finding it limpid, as part of it will be, even in an advanced stage of the pustule, when the greater portion has been converted into a scab, they have felt an improper confidence, and sometimes mistaken a spurious pustule, which the the Vaccine fluid in this state is capable of exciting, for that which possesses the perfect character.

During the investigation of the casual Cow Pox, I was struck with the idea that it might be practicable to propagate the disease by inoculation, after the manner of the Small Pox, first from the cow, and finally from one human being to another. I anxiously waited some time for an opportunity of putting this theory to the test. At length the period arrived. The first experiment was made upon a lad of the name of Phipps, in whose arm a little Vaccine virus was inserted, taken from the hand of a young woman who had been accidentally infected by a cow. Notwithstanding the resemblance which the pustule, thus excited on the boy's arm, bore to variolous inoculation, yet as the indisposition attending it was barely perceptible, I could scarcely persuade myself the the patient was secure from the Small Pox. However, on his being inoculated some months afterwards, it proved that he was secure.* This case inspired me with confidence; and as soon as I could again furnish myself with virus from the cow, I made an arrangement for a series of inoculations. A number of children were inoculated in succession, one from the other; and after several months had elapsed, they were exposed to the infection of the Small Pox; some by inoculation, others by variolous effluvia, and some in both ways; but they all resisted it. Tho result of these trials gradually led me into a wider field of experiment, which I went over not only with great attention, but with painful solicitude. This became universally known through a treatise published in June 1798. The result of my further experience was also brought forward in subsequent publications in the two succeeding years, 1799 and 1800. The distrust and scepticism which naturally arose in the minds of medical men, on my first announcing so unexpected a discovery, has now nearly disappeared. Many hundreds of them, from actual experience, have given their attestations that the inoculated Cow Pox proves a perfect security against the Small Pox; and I shall probably be within compass if I say, thousands are ready to follow their example; for the scope that this inoculation has now taken is immense. An hundred thousand persons, upon the smallest computation, have been inoculated in these realms. The numbers who have partaken of its benefits throughout Europe and other parts of the globe are incalculable: and it now becomes too manifest to admit of controversy, that the annihilation of the Small Pox, the most dreadful scourge of the human species, must be the final result of this practice.

* *This boy was inoculated nearly at the expiration of five years afterwards with variolous matter, but no other effect was produced beyond a local inflammation around the punctured part upon the arm.*

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May 4. 2aw4w. 1awa

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