

**Vaccination.**

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HERE is no fact in the whole history of medicine and surgery better established than that the discovery made by the immortal Jenner has been the means, by the blessing of Providence, of banishing from our midst, one of the most loathsome plagues with which mankind has ever been afflicted. Before Dr. Jenner's day, small-pox was rampant, the only protection from it being direct inoculation with its *virus*, which produced the disease in a modified form.

Yet, although even in our day the very name of small-pox is enough to make people shudder, although the knowledge that it is raging in a certain house or street is enough to make people give that quarter a wide berth, still the dread that some parents have of the simple operation of vaccination is painfully remarkable.

Cases of persons objecting to have their children vaccinated are constantly being heard at Police Courts, but most of these persons belong to a class of individuals who will tell you that they do not believe in vaccination even as a protective power against small-pox; such individuals are not worth

wasting words on; they are wilfully ignorant or wittingly untruthful; they speak on a subject which they have not sufficiently read up or studied, and they ignore statistics. Others there are who object to vaccination, simply because it is compulsory. An Englishman ought to be a freeman, they will tell you, and treat his own children in anyway he pleases. If this Englishman were living on an island all by himself, he might do as he liked, but he must not forget that laws are made for the good of the community and not to suit individual tastes. A man who refuses to have his children vaccinated is as much a nuisance, and a danger to society, as he would be who objected to bury any deceased member of his family, and left the body to corrupt on the surface of the ground. Another class of persons will admit the protective influence of vaccination, but approach the trifling ordeal with fear and trembling, lest, forsooth, their pure-blooded child should receive through it, that into his body which shall make him for life an unhappy invalid.

Such people as these are more to be pitied than anything else. The statistics of a small-pox hospital show that out of 50,000 cases of vaccination no disease was ever communicated with the vaccine lymph, and my own experience convinces me that vaccination, when *carefully performed*, will neither communicate nor give rise to disease. I will admit,

**NEVER BE WITHOUT**

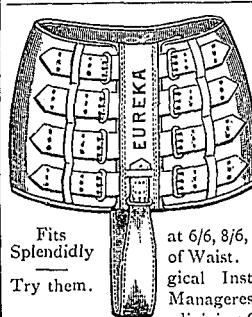
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