

Acts. They are the places which most loudly cry for amendment. Take one point. The Vaccination Commissioners recommended (1) that calf-lymph only should be used; (2) that the age for vaccination might be raised to six months. In half the above cases the lymph was human; and in all except one the age was under six months. The State compels primary education, and aims at placing all primary education under inspection. Why should vaccination—also compelled—be carried out without inspection?"

We are of opinion that as the Vaccination Commissioners have recommended that calf-lymph only should be used, that the poor have a right to demand that their children should not be subjected to vaccination by human lymph. But how difficult it is for the poor to protest!

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The furnishing of the palatial new General Hospital at Birmingham has raised quite a storm in trades union circles. It is alleged that the contracts for furnishing have been sub-let to an unfair firm, or, in other words, to a firm which sweats its work-people, and does not pay them at the trades union rate of wages. If the Committee have failed to insert a clause against sub-letting in their contracts with the firm ostensibly employed, it is a very grave oversight, from a business point of view, and should be carefully inserted in the future. We are entirely in sympathy with the Birmingham Trades Union artisan, from whom the General Hospital receives so much financial support, in his protest against any form of sub-letting of contracts to firms which sweat their employes; it is a pernicious and unjust system. The firm to which a Committee give the contract should be made to carry out the work.

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The Birmingham *Mail* says:—

"Here is another example of how morbidly curious some women can be. The feature of the inspection of the New General Hospital this week has been the great number of women whose chief desire was to see the operating room. As soon as they entered the building many of them simply asked the question: "Where is the operating room?" and when shown the gruesome chamber they seemed thoroughly fascinated. They stared fixedly at the tables and other articles in the room, and seemed reluctant to leave. If the whole of the visitors had acted in this way, it would have taken the greater part of next century for the stream of people to pass through."

No doubt the interest of the women in the operating theatre was not inspired by morbid curiosity, but was a very natural desire to see, and know something of the arrangements of the room where their nearest and dearest, their husbands and sons might be taken to receive treatment after oft occurring accidents. We can well appreciate the keen and intelligent interest of these poor wives and mothers, many of whom may have suffered the agony of seeing those they love best, return to their homes after operation, maimed for life and more or less helpless. To the poor the loss of a limb is a terrible reality, which means very often loss of capital and labour in one, and we have known more than one poor fellow refuse to submit to the removal of a limb for the reason that "I ain't going to be a burden on my old woman, so that's flat." They have preferred death to dismemberment.

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The sooner Mr. Balfour's bill, relating to the re-organization of the Irish Unions, becomes law,

the better. There is little doubt that at present the management of the large majority of these institutions is deplorable. An extraordinary condition of affairs exists at Youghal Fever Hospital, from where the guardians have intimated to the Local Government Board that they refuse to be responsible for the patients, as they have been forbidden to put the institution in temporary repair. The fever hospital is considered by the Board of an utterly unsuitable character, and they advise the erection of sheds in the grounds. Meanwhile, whilst a lengthy correspondence ensues between the guardians and the Local Government Board, the leaking in the hospital roof continues, "thus endangering the lives of the patients occupying the house"!

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Malarial fever of a mild type has appeared among the Indian troops, at Dooba Sadda.

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The *Bombay Gazette* has expressed fear lest the Government of India by requisitioning the services of commissioned officers and men may be subordinating the medical service to frontier work, and that it does not realize the peril that would threaten India through the weakening of the machinery necessary to combat the plague. "Consequences would thereby be entailed," concludes the journal, "infinitely more disastrous than anything which is happening on the frontier."

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Plague returns from Surat, Thana, Poona, Satara, Nasik, Kolaba, Ratnagiri, Baroda, and Kolhapur, from the Southern Maratha country, and from Palanpur, show that the disease has crept over a wide area, and invaded scattered villages, spreading itself gradually and unobserved from hamlet to hamlet.

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It is reported by the *Daily Mail* that, owing to the spread of yellow fever in the States, Dr. Powell, who has some new ideas on the subject of contagious and infectious diseases, has asked the Board of Health for the State of California for yellow fever germs, in order that he may demonstrate the accuracy of his hypotheses. He proposes to introduce the germs into his own system, and declares that he will in this way disprove the current theories, that bacilli are the origin of the disease. He is ready to give a similar demonstration with germs of tuberculosis, diphtheria, glanders, and, in fact, any other contagious or infectious malady.

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A mob in New Orleans, infuriated at a school building being used as a yellow fever hospital, applied a torch to the structure, cut the hose of the fire apparatus, and threatened to renew the attack should anyone interfere. Happily the flames were extinguished, but several sisters of charity narrowly escaped death. The town is in an uproar on account of the determination of mobs, who are parading the streets with the view of preventing the establishment of a fever hospital in the heart of the town. Cases have occurred at Louisville, Edward, and Mobile.

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