

### A Courageous Pioneer.

In a ramble in Dorsetshire, I came across the beautiful little church at Worth Matravers, dedicated to St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, Patron Saint of boys and sailors, which dates back to Saxon times, and where Aldhelm, Bishop of Salisbury preached more than 1,000 years ago. But the fact which will, perhaps, more particularly interest readers of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, is one recorded in some interesting historical notes which state that: On the north side of the graveyard, there is a headstone in memory of Benjamin Jesty who appears to have been the first to vaccinate. His experiment was made in 1774, Jenner following in 1796.

According to Dr. E. W. Crookshank, Benjamin Jesty held, at one time, a large farm at Yetminster, in Dorset. From there, he removed to the farm at Downshay, in Worth Parish. Many years afterwards he formed the acquaintance of the Rev. Dr. Bell, Rector of Swanage, who had introduced the practice of vaccination into his parish. Jesty having inoculated his wife and two children with cow pox in 1774, became anxious that his claims to the original discovery should be known, and he accordingly gave Dr. Bell an account of his proceedings, and suggested that he was entitled to some reward as well as Jenner. Dr. Bell was much struck with Jesty's narrative, and drew up a paper on the subject:—

"In the spring of the year 1774, Farmer Benjamin Jesty, then of Yetminster, in Dorset, now of Downshay, Isle of Purbeck, inoculated with vaccine matter his wife and two sons, Robert and Benjamin, of three and two years of age, and all three now alive. Mr. Jesty was inoculated in the arm under the elbow, her sons above the elbow. The incision was made with a needle, and the virus taken on the spot from the cows of Farmer Elford, of Chittenhall, whither Mr. Jesty carried his family for that purpose. The sons had the disorder in a favourable way, but Mr. Jesty's arm was much inflamed, and the boldness and novelty of the attempt produced no small alarm in the family, and no small sensation in the neighbourhood. Fifteen years later (1789) the sons were inoculated for the smallpox by Mr. Trowbridge, of Cerne Abbas, along with others who had not had the cowpox. The arms of the former inflamed, but inflammation soon subsided, and no fever or other variolous symptom was observable; the latter went through the fever eruption and usual course of the inoculated smallpox. Mrs. Jesty and the two sons have often since been exposed to the variolous contagion." Mrs. Jesty's story is as follows:—

"When the smallpox raged in the vicinity and the inoculation was introduced into the village (Yetminster) alarmed for the safety of his family he bethought himself of this expedient. There had been in his family two maid servants, Ann Notley and Mary Read, who, after having the disorder from the cows, and knowing this to be a preventative of small-pox, had attended, the one her brother, the other her nephew in the natural small-pox without taking the infection. This circumstance caused Mr. Jesty to communicate by inoculation the disorder of the cows to his family. E.P.C.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

#### EXAMINATION AUGUST 1st., 1906.

At the examination of the Central Midwives' Board held at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., on August 1st, 245 candidates presented themselves for examination. Of this number 192 satisfied the examiners, the percentage of failures being thus 21.6.

#### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

A.—Alexander, Nellie, Greenwich Union Infirmary; Allsup, Olive Mary, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin; Argles, Gladys Helen, British Lying-in Hospital; Ashby, Annie, C. St. Aubyn-Farrer; Austin, Kate Evelyn, General Lying-in Hospital; Ayden, Annie Maria, Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women.

B.—Baker, Alice Maud, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Ballard, Elizabeth Caffyn, General Lying-in Hospital; Barker, Florence, Queen Charlotte's Hospital; Barrett, Elsie Anna Sophia, C. St. Aubyn-Farrer; Bartlett, Ethel Mary, Salvation Army Maternity Hospital; Beck, Elizabeth Ellen, Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; Bendall, Lillie Sarah, Glasgow Maternity Hospital; Bennett, Agnes, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Bennett, Selina, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Binns, Eliza Jane, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Bissell, Mary Louise, Smallwood Savage; Blackburn, Annie, General Lying-in Hospital; Boddington, Emma Sophia, Royal Derbyshire Nursing Association; Bold, Sydonia Ann, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Bond, Emily Hannah, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Bowden, Edith Alice, Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women; Bowers, Edith Margaret Jane, Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh; Boycott, Ada Margaret, General Lying-in Hospital; Branscombe, Emily Isabel, Clapham Maternity Hospital; Brooks, Charlotte Helen Beckett, A. B. Calder; Buckley, Ann, General Lying-in Hospital.

C.—Carruthers, Florence Charlotte, Government Maternity Hospital, Madras; Carter, Emma Jane, Clapham Maternity Hospital; Carthew, Mabel Fanny, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Cave, Bertha, J. H. P. Fraser; Chadwick, Lizzie Parry, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Cheesman, Beatrice Louise, Guy's Institution; Chester, Eleanor, E. D. Brice; Claydon, Elizabeth, J. S. Fairbairn; Cligg Hilda, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Cockram, Nellie, Clapham Maternity Hospital; Collins, Susanna, A. B. Calder; Cooke, Florence Marian, General Lying-in Hospital; Cooper, Catherine Alice, General Lying-in Hospital; Corser, Ellen Lyon, A. B. Calder; Cosgrove, Hannah, General Lying-in Hospital; Court, Agnes Julia, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Cowley, Edith Annie, Clapham Maternity Hospital; Cowley, Fanny, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Cox, Frances Martha, East End Mothers' Home; Cuniberlidge, Esther, East End Mothers' Home; Cunningham, Mary Henrietta, Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women.

D.—Davies, Mary Ann, Brighton and Hove Hospital for Women; Davis, Be-sie Florence, Queen Charlotte's Hospital; Dawson, Catherine Jane, Maternity Charity, Plaistow; Dear, Ruth Ethel, Maternity Hospital, Dundee; Derbyshire, Jane Alice, Essex County C.N.S.; Dipstale, Marian, Queen Charlotte's Hospital;

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