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SMALL POX AND VACCINATION.

Small Pox Was the Scourge of the World Before the Introduction of Vaccination.

Palmetto La., May 25th, 1908. Mr. Editor.—In answering "Medico's" article of recent date in your paper—his objection to compulsory vaccination—small-pox was first accurately described by Rayes, an Arabian physician, in the ninth century of the Christian era, and distinguished by him from measles; but it is believed to be the same as the pestis magna described by Galen (A. D. 130-200).

It prevailed also in China many centuries before the Christian era. It is known to have prevailed in the Sixth Century and again during the Crusades. The disease is believed to have been introduced into America by the Spaniards, having first appeared most fatally in Mexico in 1520, and in Massachusetts in 1633. In evidence of the virulence of the disease it may be mentioned that in Iceland in 1797, eighteen thousand perished out of a population of fifty thousand; in Mexico three and a half million were suddenly smitten.

Lord Macaulay, writing of the death of Queen Mary in 1558, thus describes the ravages of small-pox: "That disease over which science has since achieved a succession of glorious and beneficent victories, was then the most terrible of all the ministers of death."

"The havoc of the plague had been far more rapid; but the plague had visited our shores only once or twice within living memory, and the small-pox was always present, filling the church yards with corpses, and menacing with constant fears all whom it had not yet struck, leaving on those whose lives it spared the hideous traces of its power, turning the babe into a changeling at which the mother shuddered, and making the eyes and cheeks of the betrothed maiden objects of horror to the lover."

All authors concur in testifying to the dreadful mortality occasioned in all countries by small-pox in pre-vaccination times, and to the consequent terror which its visitation everywhere excited.

In the Middle Ages its death roll could be counted by millions. Before the introduction of vaccination—a little more than a century ago (1796)—the annual rate of mortality from this disease in England and Wales alone was three thousand in every million of the population. In France about thirty thousand people died annually of the disease, and over forty thousand in the regions then ruled by the Prussian monarchs.

During that time it was said, "from small-pox and love but few escape." Those who escaped death had to endure for the rest of their days all kinds of defects and disfigurements as a result of this frightful disease. It spared neither Prince nor peasant, spread its terrors in the huts of the poor as well as the dwellings of the rich, even penetrating into the palaces of kings, and more than once threatened with danger of total extinction the representatives of European dynasties.

That small-pox did not respect royalty is evidenced by the formidable list of kings, queens and princes who died of the disease: William II, of Orange; Emperor Joseph I, of Austria; Louis XV, of France; two children of Charles I, of England; a son of James II, of England; his daughter Queen Mary and uncle, the Duke of Gloucester; the son of Louis XIV, Louis Duke of Burgundy; the daughter, his wife, and their son, the Duc de Bretagne; the German Emperor of Russia; the last Elector of Bavaria; two German Emperors; an Austrian Archduke and Archduchess; an Archduke of Saxony; and the Queen of Sweden, 1741.

The following were attacked with the disease, but recovered: Queen Anne of England; Peter III, of Russia; Louis XIV, of France; William of Orange (afterwards William III); and Queen Mary, Maria Theresa of Austria. George Washington was strongly attacked by the small pox during his early manhood, while on a visit to the West Indies. The greatest disease ever conferred upon mankind was first performed on May 14th, 1796, by Edmund Jenner, whose discovery has made his name immortal. "I cannot say a safe and absolute preventive against the most dreadful of all scourges which bade fair to depopulate the world, he bided his time

and conducted sufficient investigations to demonstrate most conclusively the value of his discovery before venturing to publish his observations to the world. Quoting his own words: "I placed it on a rock where I knew it would be memorable before I invited the public to look at it."

Thousands of lives have been saved by vaccination, and a thorough and continuous practice of vaccination would undoubtedly blot out small-pox from the face of the earth.

A little over a century ago a beautiful woman evoked the wildest enthusiasm, for there were so few women whose faces were not disfigured by small-pox. Small-pox was then so universal a disease that Ben Johnson wrote of it: "Ergiveus and foul disease, could there not be One beauty in an age and free from thee?"

It has been said that if an Englishman of the Eighteenth Century were introduced into America by the Spaniards, having first appeared most fatally in Mexico in 1520, and in Massachusetts in 1633. In evidence of the virulence of the disease it may be mentioned that in Iceland in 1797, eighteen thousand perished out of a population of fifty thousand; in Mexico three and a half million were suddenly smitten.

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"I had only the cottage and my hands. I tolled early and late all the years till John could help me. Then we kept the girls at school—John and me. They were married not long ago. Married rich, too, as the world goes. John sold the cottage, sent me to the city to live with them and he went West to begin for himself. He said we had provided for me now."

Her voice choked with emotion. The stranger waited in silence.

"I went to them in the city. I went to Mary's first. She lived in a great house with servants to wait on her; a house many times larger than the cottage; but I soon found there wasn't room enough for me—

The tears stood in the lines of her cheek. The ticket agent came out softly, stirred the fire, and went back. After a pause, she continued: "I went to them in the city. I went to Mary's first. She lived in a great house with servants to wait on her; a house many times larger than the cottage; but I soon found there wasn't room enough for me—

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"At last they told me I must live at a boarding house, and they'd keep me there. I couldn't say anything. My heart was too full of pain. I wrote to John what they were going to do. He wrote right back, a long, kind letter for me to come right to him. I should always have a home while he had a roof, he said. To come right there and stay as long as I lived. That his mother should never go out of his mind. So I'm going to John. He's got only his rough hands and his great warm heart—but there's room for his old mother—God bless him."

The stranger brushed a tear from her cheek and waited the conclusion.

"Some day when I am gone where I never trouble them again, Mary and Martha will think of me. Some day when the hands that tolled for them are folded and still; when the eyes that watched over them through many a weary night are closed forever; when the little old body, bent with the burdens it bore for them, is put away where it can never shame them—"

The agent drew his hand quickly before his eyes, and went out as if to look for the train. The stranger's fingers stroked the gray locks, while the tears of sorrow and of sympathy fell together. The weary heart was unburdened. Soothed by a touch of sympathy, the troubled soul yielded to the longing for rest, and she fell asleep. The agent went noiselessly about his duties, but he might not wake her. As the fair stranger watched she saw a smile on the careworn face. The lips moved. She bent down to hear.

"I'M DOING IT FOR MARY AND MARTHA. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF ME SOME TIME."

She was dreaming of the days in the little cottage—the fond hopes which inspired her, long before she learned, with a broken heart, that some day she would, homeless in the world, go to John.

(OFFICIAL) Proceedings of the Police Jury.

Opelousas, La., June 15th, 1908. The police jury met this day pursuant to adjournment, with the following members present: Dr. Clifton, President; Messrs. Durio, Lanolis, Singleton, Willis Fontenot, Aduel Fontenot, Dailey, Doucet, St. Cyr.

Motion by Mr. Dailey—That the Police Jury now resolve itself into a Board of Reviewers of assessment. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Lanolis—The Board of Reviewers adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p. m.

On motion of Mr. Clifton, President; Messrs. Durio, St. Cyr, Dailey, Lanolis, Doucet, Willis Fontenot, Aduel Fontenot.

Motion by Mr. Durio—Be it resolved, That the Police Jury sitting as a Board of Reviewers approve the assessment lists as presented by the Assessor and direct that they be turned over to Mr. L. J. Bossmann, the Assessor of the parish of St. Landry. Motion carried.

On motion of Mr. St. Cyr—The Board of Reviewers resolved itself into regular session of Police Jury. Motion by Mr. Dailey—That the Police Jury adjourn until the first Monday in July, being the sixth day of said month.

W. E. CLIFTON, President. J. J. HEALEY, Clerk.

Town Finances.

Opelousas, June 18. Editor Clarion.—Reading in your paper to day, I see by it there will be a deficiency of funds to meet the expenses of our city government.

all the voters within our corporate limits who lately voted for prohibition register themselves as prohibitionists, on whom should be imposed a tax which should amount to the sum total of what was derived from the licensing of saloons.

And numerous others have been willing to contribute to the saloons to pay those licenses. We made no kick against it, yet a number of our fellow-citizens, who aver that they made no contribution to the support of the saloons, banded themselves together and deprived us of the privilege of contributing to the upbuilding and improvement of our city, notwithstanding that these said prohibitionists, who paid no license tax, enjoyed the benefits equally with those who did pay.

Therefore, it would only be just and equitable that they should now assume this tax, as no one would consider it fair for a man to pull me down and I should pull him up.

But I am satisfied the council will call the attention of the prohibitionists to the justice of them recouping the city the amount that the city derived from the saloons that they will no longer, but will consider it a fair proposition and pay cheerfully. VOTE!!

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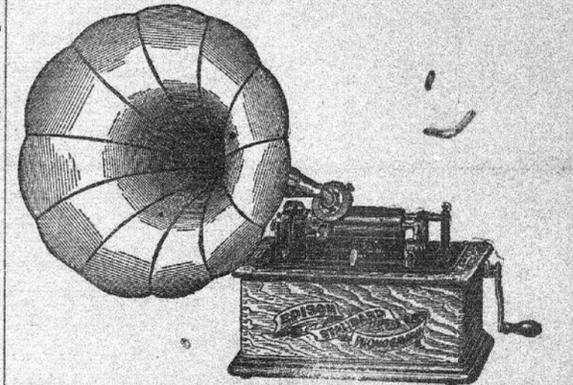
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