

had been increased nearly tenfold, since his residence, (not 2 years) in that locality, a neighbourhood be it remarked, in which the disciples of total abstinence were daily augmenting in number in an extraordinary manner.—*Eds. M. M. G.*

### VACCINATION AND INOCULATION.

At a meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, in London, Jan. 28, Dr. George Gregory, Physician to the Smallpox Hospital, gave some account of the variolous epidemic of 1844, and also made some very important suggestions in regard to the methods of preventing the liability to contract the disease. The following is from the *Lancet*.]

After noticing the remarkable freedom from smallpox which the metropolis enjoyed during the years 1842-3, the author adverted to the rise of the present epidemic, which he dates from the 21st March, 1844, when the weekly deaths by smallpox suddenly rose from twenty to thirty, and have continued progressing (with some irregularities) from that period to the present.

The admissions into the Smallpox Hospital, in 1844, amounted to 647, and exceeded by one the admissions in the great epidemic of 1781, being, with the exception of 1838 (when the epidemic raged throughout the entire year,) the greatest number ever received into the Hospital since its foundation in 1746. The character of the disease was severe. The deaths amounted to 151, being at the rate of twenty-three and a half per cent. In 1781, when the same number of patients was admitted, the deaths were 257, being at the rate of forty per cent.

Of the total admitted, 312 were reported to have been vaccinated, and have cognizable cicatrices; 22 professed to have been vaccinated, but no scars were detected; two alleged, but on unsatisfactory grounds, that they had been inoculated for smallpox in early life.

Among the 312 vaccinated, 100 had the disease in the very mild form usually called the varioloid; in a certain number no mitigation was observed; of the whole number, 24 died, being at the rate of nearly eight per cent. On this section of the admissions, many of the cases received during the year displayed features of individual interest. A variety of them were stated in detail.

A remarkable feature in the history of the past year was the increasing desire on the part of the public for re-vaccination.

Founding his views on the now indisputable fact that smallpox spreads as widely *without* as with accompanying inoculation, and on the now equally established fact, that smallpox after vaccination proves fatal at the rate of seven per cent., while inoculated smallpox is fatal only at the rate of one fifth, or one in 500, the author proceeded to argue that it is unwise to prevent variolous inoculation *in toto*. Persons verging on puberty might, he said, with great prospect of advantage, be inoculated *after vaccination in early life*. If, as happened in the case of his own son, the inoculation failed to produce constitutional symptoms, the permanent security of the party was fully establish-