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VACCINATION WITH CALF LYMPH.

By W. E. BESSEY, M.D., Public Vaccinator to Board of Health, Montreal.

Read before the Canada Medical Association at Halifax, N.S., August 4th, 1881.

MR. PRESIDENT, GENTLEMEN,—The subject of vaccination with *lymph direct from the animal* is one which at present is occupying so much of the attention of the Profession every where that no apology is necessary for its introduction on an occasion like the present.

A discussion of the topic of *animal vaccination*, if fully entered into, would involve a rehearsal of the entire history of vaccination with a consideration of the many unfortunate results which have occasionally been observed to follow ordinary arm to arm vaccination—this, time will not permit. The troublesome consequences which have from time to time been observed to follow the use of *impure lymph* are the disagreeable facts which the Profession have always had to contend against, and this, coupled with the frequency with which attacks of genuine (*variola*) small-pox, sometimes

fatal, have followed spurious vaccination, has led in some quarters to a most determined opposition to the practice of vaccination.

The unfortunate results which have followed vaccination *my*, in all fairness, be said to be inexcusable, inasmuch as with due attention, and a proper knowledge of the subject, such casualties might always be prevented.

Such accidents are usually traceable to *long humanized virus* taken from, scrofulous or otherwise tainted or unhealthy subjects, or it may be from sources quite unknown to the practitioner using it, and directly responsible for the results.

That vaccine is very sensibly, but gradually, deteriorated by long human transmission has been well established by Bosquet and others. In the illustrations accompanying this paper I have endeavored to give an illustration of a *perfect vaccination*. The resulting cicatrix from vaccination with bovine lymph, early removes of the humanized and long humanized almost inert. We have learned from the mistakes of the past that *two things* are absolutely necessary to guarantee perfect safety in the daily practice of vaccination; and to ensure that degree of prophylaxis or immunity from a future attack of small-pox which the patient has a right to expect.