

THE INHUMANITY OF SERUMISM.

When men adopt false ideas and practices, a process of moral degradation is instituted which drags them continuously downward. So long as men revere truth and conscientiously strive for it, they remain *men*, and the shortcomings and limitations inseparable from human progress cannot check their growth as moral beings. But when we abandon principle, invent untruth with which to delude others for selfish ends, or practice erroneous methods in order to conform to a prevailing fashion, the individual is insidiously and progressively corrupted until even the brute creation would be ashamed to acknowledge him as a relation.

The *Medical Brief* has, from time to time, protested against serumism as an evidence of superstition, a relic of the dark ages, and a blot on the escutcheon of medicine. Its authors and exponents have sowed the wind, and the profession at large will have to reap the whirlwind, for the inevitable tendency of serumism is to bring medicine and its practitioners into general disrepute.

The man who believes in serums and uses them in the treatment of disease, is sure to become gradually degraded and morally obtuse. To prove that we are not speaking too strongly, we quote the following paragraph from a London morning newspaper:

The Vienna correspondent of the *Morning Leader*, says:

"It has been discovered that the physicians in the free hospitals at Vienna systematically experiment upon their patients, especially new-born children, women who are encephalic, and persons who are dying. In one case a doctor injected the bacilli of an infectious disease from a decomposing corpse into thirty-five women and three new-born children. Another case, a youth who was on the high road to recovery, was inoculated and he died within 24 hours.

"Many dying patients have been tortured and many men have been inoculated with contagious diseases. One doctor who had received an unlimited number of healthy children from a founding hospital for experimental purposes, excused himself on the ground that they were cheaper than animals."

No man whose mind partakes of Anglo-Saxon purity, can read this paragraph, which is undoubtedly true, without being fired with righteous indignation. The inhumanity of pouring poison and

disease into the veins of helpless women and children makes the blood boil. The reckless, nay, criminal, disregard of human life, the conscienceless trampling on individual rights, the abuse of sovereign authority are shocking and revolting to the American mind.

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn," but that this sentiment should find its most ingenious exponents among medical men is a fearful reflection upon a *benevolent* profession.

Practices such as these, dignified by the name of science though they be, rival the unspeakable atrocities of the Inquisition. Would that our pen were inspired to condemn such cruelties in suitable phrase. We do not believe it is possible to permanently graft upon Anglo-Saxon medicine the false and barbarous methods of treatment invented in the atmosphere of Continental Europe. Bacteriology and serumism, twin errors, have been exploited as cheap roads to fame and wealth, but when we see into what depths of degradation and inhumanity they lead their advocates, even the most partial must forsake them.—*Medical Brief* Editorial.

SMALL-POX, CIDER VINEGAR AS A PREVENTIVE.

The vinegar treatment as a preventive against the contagion of smallpox, discovered and introduced by Dr. C. F. Howe, county health officer of Atchison, Kansas, has passed the point of mere theory and is now an established fact, having been efficient in several hundred cases of exposure in the city of Atchison and Atchison county. Many of these exposures have been the nurses, as well as many others that it was impossible to isolate from the original case of smallpox for the want of room. In other words, any one, vaccinated or not, can nurse a case of small-pox without fear of contracting the disease if, at the same time, they use the vinegar in tablespoonful doses four times daily in half cup of water. It can be taken in less amount for small children or more by adults.

Dr. Howe advises the use of pure cider vinegar only, as all others contain alcohol. Even after the person exposed has run almost the entire incubation period, the use of vinegar will either abort the disease entirely, or modify it to the extent of having all the prodromal symptoms without the disfiguring eruption.