

the exact scope of the application of this agency in the treatment of skin affections. He thought it would be difficult to apply where patients had been previously vaccinated.

Dr. Larocque, health officer, had never given the subject any thought, but had never seen skin affections cured by vaccination. However, he was aware of the fact that eruptive blood poisons were eliminated by it.

Dr. Henry Howard considered much credit due to the reader of the paper for bringing the subject before the Society. More cases were required to form an opinion—all eruptive diseases are not *blood poisons* as, for example, *gouty eczema*, which is due to nerve irritation. Nervous irritable old people are liable to be eczematous. Impure blood, he considered to be blood laden with disease germs, and in many skin affections the blood was not impure. He hoped the observations would be continued, and more facts bearing on the subject elicited.

Dr. Roddick said it was an entirely new subject, and the observations made, and the boldness of the conception reflect credit on the reader of the paper. He would, however, not have feared any trouble arising from the vaccination of a person having a secondary syphilitic eruption as Dr. Bessey appears to have done. The cases which gave trouble were those in which syphilis had been conveyed or transmitted from a diseased to a healthy subject. The theory required to be supported by further evidence before it could be accepted by the profession. He would watch with interest the result of vaccination in the case of Psoriasis Lepraformis of eighteen years standing, presented before the Society to-night.

The President (Dr. Hingston) said the portion of the paper introductory to the subject proper referred to the "Instructions given to Public Vaccinators." Having been Chairman of the Board of Health at the time those instructions were issued, he considered himself personally responsible for them. They were compiled in the most careful manner from various codes of other countries, and to the careful manner in which the instructions were carried out by the public vaccinators the City was indebted for the remarkable freedom from accident which attended their work.

On former occasions, and before attention was directed to certain details which were formerly considered unimportant, accidents were of frequent occurrence, and of a nature to give a sort of ex-

cuse to the anti-vaccinators to continue their unfortunate attacks against the practice of vaccination. One of these instructions was not to vaccinate infants suffering from febrile disturbance or from cutaneous eruptions. He (Dr. Hingston) thought this a wise advice. As to chronic eczema he had nothing to say, not having seen vaccination practised for that disease. But in *acute eczema* the case was quite different. The latter is not a blood disease. Eczematous eruptions frequently occur about the period of teething, and the highest authority, West, for instance advises non-interference. It would be hardly fair to the little sufferer to add another irritant, such as that of vaccine, to one already producing so much disturbance. He hoped nothing in the paper just read would induce practitioners to vaccinate infants suffering from acute febrile or cutaneous disorders. If, however, vaccination were found to modify and cure *chronic eczema*, the Society would certainly be indebted to Dr. Bessey for having so earnestly drawn attention to the matter.

Dr. Bessey, said, in reply to Dr. Kennedy, he did not see case referred to after vaccination, as he understood the family physician had been called in, and he accordingly retired. However, judging from the time in which the cure was effected, he thought the case might be claimed for vaccination, which would at first greatly increase the eruption, and that would be followed immediately by decline and disappearance. In answer to Dr. Reddy, he said the time in which cures were effected in cases observed by him had been in about three weeks. Exceptional cases might be longer. In reply to Dr. Ross, he said he had not expected to establish a new departure in the treatment of skin diseases, but had merely wished to add his quota from the ample opportunity for observation which his position had afforded him. As to the difficulty about re-vaccination, Dr. Grant's cases were mostly re-vaccinated, and the result had been satisfactory, and no one would deny that Dr. Grant was a most creditable medical witness. Dr. Larocque had simply not paid any attention to the subject.

A day or two ago, while in conversation with a lady of this city on the subject of vaccination in skin diseases, she related a circumstance of a Dr. Mull, of Berthier, having vaccinated a child suffering from an inveterate eruption on head of what she termed Canadian Reef, for the express purpose of curing it, and with the happiest results.