

The story, the facts of which we glean from the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, is of more than ordinary interest.

Dr. Pfeiffer, it seems, has been for years one of the most aggressive, and withal the most consistent, of the opponents of vaccination and of late has been giving the municipal authorities of Boston considerable trouble. As an outcome of the strength of the opposition aroused by him, the chairman of the Board of Health of Boston offered to allow any unvaccinated person, who desired to do so, to visit the smallpox hospital. No notice was taken of this at the time, but Dr. Pfeiffer subsequently applied for permission, giving as a reason that he wished to study the disease. The doctor, however, had only been vaccinated about 60 years before in childhood. The visit was made on January 23rd, and due precautions were taken at the time to prevent his carrying away infection on his clothes. Great publicity was given to his visit, both by the daily papers and by his appearing on the 28th before the committee on Public Health as a petitioner for the abolition of compulsory vaccination. Here he asserted that anyone, like himself, who had not been vaccinated for 60 years could expose himself to the danger of infection with impunity. Meanwhile the Board of Health, looking upon him as a suspect, had kept careful watch of his movements, and when he did not appear at the next meeting of the public health committee, 12 days after his exposure, search was made for him. It was not until four days later that they were able to locate him at his country residence in Bedford, where he was found to be seriously ill with smallpox, although his exposure to the infection had lasted not more than an hour. In contrast to this is the fact that of all the physicians and nurses in attendance at the hospital during the whole winter, not one had contracted the disease.

While there is nothing unusual in the contraction of the disease in the manner described, the great publicity which had been given to the matter by the victim himself and the way in which he was "hoisted with his own petard," will serve, we hope, as a wholesome lesson to those members of our profession who deny the most firmly established principles.

McGILL MEDICAL LIBRARY REPORT.

QUARTER ENDING JAN. 31st, 1902.

Adami, J. G., M.D.

Set of Abstracts of The Congress of London, 1901.

Doctors and Patients, by John Timbs, 1873.

Medical and Surgical Reports of Presbyterian Hospital, 4 Vols.

American Dermatological Association, 1901.

American Laryngological Association, 1901.

American Microscopical Association, Vols. vii-xx.