

they are in perfect health, and when, as a matter of fact, no cases of the disease may exist in their community, nor, indeed, in their country. In the second place, the fact exists that in an occasional case unfortunate results have followed the operation, giving some reason for the objections which have been raised. What moral grounds, then, can we have for our insistence upon the necessity for such legislation; and if such can be shown to have a basis in reason, what are the logical deductions to be drawn as to the moral duty laid upon the State which institutes such legislation?

With regard to the first question, we have several answers: (1) That vaccination has during a century been the means of reducing the mortality from a disease which previously caused one-tenth of all deaths in European countries, to the lowest of any of the infectious diseases which we have to combat in temperate climates. (2) That the theory of the immunity caused by it is based upon experimental evidence which has completely revolutionized the practice of medicine, and produced results in the instance of such diseases as anthrax, rinder-pest, plague, and diphtheria, which are comparable to that of vaccination itself. (3) That inasmuch as the infectiousness of smallpox is incomparably greater than that of any of these diseases, experience in every country has shown that, while sanitation, isolation, and disinfection, play important parts in the work of prevention, even the most complete sanitary organizations have failed again and again to eradicate the disease from a community without vaccination. (4) That we have the marvellous fact that vaccination is adequate to protect completely against the disease after exposure has taken place, even up to the fourth day, and of reducing the severity of the disease to a non-fatal issue in almost every instance where vaccination is concurrent with the smallpox.

If, then, we have such potent reasons for persisting in our demands for compulsory vaccination, we must be prepared to accept the fullest responsibility for the position taken, which must be that, if we insist on compulsion, we shall not, through indifference or neglect, allow anything to exist or take place by which any element of danger can enter into the results of the operation.

I am quite prepared, gentlemen, to admit that while any serious results which have ever been shown to follow the operation are in practice infinitesimal compared with the total number of operations, yet the secondary effects of the operation at times from the ethical standpoint have been such as to clearly inculcate