

Another thing that has come out during the present agitation is that some claim to vaccinate by giving a "vaccine pill." To teach and practise such views should be made a criminal offense, as it misleads those who do not know any better, and thus they lose the protection they might have had. Such practice is just as wrong as to knowingly put a piece of decayed timber in a portion of a vessel where there will be great strain, and then send the vessel to sea with a human freight on board. There is no such thing as vaccination by the way of the stomach, and it should be made a crime to attempt to secure immunity in this way.

We have read the circulars the Antis have sent broadcast and also the large advertisements they have inserted in the public press. These things do not in the slightest degree shake the faith of those who know better; but they do mislead the uninformed. Not long ago we were conversing with a well informed working man who said that the Antis were putting up a good case. A remark like this shows that the distribution of false teachings may do harm. The Antis take pride in quoting some doctors who do not believe in vaccination. Not long ago we met with a clergyman, preaching in a Toronto church, who believed that the earth is flat. Not long ago we conversed with a doctor who did not think that the antitoxine for diphtheria was of any use, indeed, he thought it was harmful. We have persons who call themselves "doctors," but who declare that there is not merit in drugs, and that all any sick person requires is to have their spinal column punched. When such things are possible then there is no marvel that an odd doctor may still be groping in the dark. Or as the Scripture says: "He loveth the darkness rather than the light."

Then another of the statements made in the advertisements of the "Antis" is that diphtheria follows vaccination. There is a vast difference between accompanying or following another condition, and being caused by that other condition. Smallpox or vaccination cannot cause diphtheria. A million cases of vaccination could not give rise to one diphtheria bacillus. But when one disease is prevalent others may also be prevalent. There is nothing to cause wonder to notice that in the same season when smallpox prevails, there may also be a considerable number of cases of diphtheria. This is merely coincidence and not cause and effect. Normal calf lymph for vaccination purposes cannot introduce into the vaccinated person any disease other than cowpox, or in other words the mildest known form of smallpox. This wild statement, made by the ignorant, or by design, falls to the ground.