

LUKEWARMNESS.

Lukewarmness, applied to the affections, is indifference, or want of ardor. In respect to religion, hardly any thing can be more culpable than this spirit. If there be a God possessed of unspendable rectitude in his own nature, and unbounded goodness towards his creatures, what can be more inconsistent or unbecoming than to be frigid and indifferent in our devotions to him? Atheism, in some respects, cannot be worse than lukewarmness. The Atheist disbelieves the existence of a God, and therefore cannot worship him at all; the lukewarm owns the existence, sovereignty, and goodness of the Supreme Being, but denies him that fervour of affection, that devotedness of heart, and activity of service, which the excellency of his services demands, and the authority of his word requires. Such a character, therefore, is represented as absolutely loathsome to God, and obnoxious to his wrath.—Rev. iii. 15, 16.

The general signs of a lukewarm spirit are such as these: Neglect of private prayer; a preference of worldly to religious company; a lax attendance on public ordinances; omission or careless perusal of God's word; a zeal for some appendages of religion, while languid about religion itself; a backwardness to promote the cause of God in the world, and a rashness of spirit in censuring those who are desirous to be useful.

If we inquire the causes of such a spirit, we shall find them to be—worldly prosperity; the influence of carnal relatives and acquaintances; indulgence of secret sins; the fear of man; and sitting under an unfaithful ministry.

The inconsistency of it appears, if we consider, that it is highly unreasonable; dishonourable to God; incompatible with the genius of the Gospel; a barrier to improvement; a death-blow to usefulness; a direct opposition to the commands of Scripture; and tends to the greatest misery.

To overcome such a state of mind, we should consider how offensive it is to God; how incongruous with the very idea and nature of true religion; how injurious to peace and felicity of mind; how ungrateful to Jesus Christ, whose whole life was spent in labour for us and our salvation; how grievous to the Holy Spirit; how dreadful an example to those who have no religion; how unlike the saints of old, and even to our enemies in the worst of causes; how dangerous to our immortal souls, since it is indicative of our want of love to God, and exposes us to just condemnation. Amos vi. 1.

MEDICAL.

VACCINE INSTITUTION.

The reader will find below the last report of the Vaccine Institution, with which we have been obligingly favoured by a gentleman lately arrived. It is an important document. In confirmation of the general benefit arising from the vaccine practice, we state the following fact. A family of four infant children, who had undergone vaccination in an undoubted form, came out lately in one of the Ships in which were a great number of Emigrants, among whom the natural disease was raging. Not one of the former caught the infection.—*Quebec Star.*

11th February, 1828, Percy Street.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT PEEL,
Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR,

WE have the honour to inform you, that the result of the last years experience is highly favourable to Vaccination, and that we hear most satisfactorily, not only of its positive influence, but of its wide diffusion.

It is true, that cases are reported to us very often of the occurrence of Small Pox after Vaccination; but we have reason to believe that the number of those who fall into this safe, though sometimes severe disease, after Vaccination, is not greater than that of those who formerly died by Inoculation, whilst that practice prevailed.

With regard to the diffusion of this Protection, whether we judge by the extent of the demand which has been made upon the board for authentic Lymph in the course of the last year, or collect from accounts received of the practice of Vaccination in new Countries, we are satisfied that the prejudices against it are less pertinacious than they were: And where it

is not resorted to with that uscity and thankfulness which such a blessing might demand, the failure is rather to be attributed to a propensity in human nature to disregard danger at a distance, and to wait till the evil be at the door, before measures are taken to prevent it, than to a distrust of its saving influence.

In proof of its wider diffusion, we learn that it is now practised, not only throughout the Morca and the Countries inhabited by the Greeks, but that it has been admitted into Constantinople, and into the palace of the Sultan, in spite of the prejudices which the Religion of the Mahomedans opposes to any measure intended to interfere with the destinies of life. So that the advantages which this Country derived from the East in the last century, by the acquisition of Inoculation from thence, it has now abundantly required, by imparting to the same region the safer practice of Vaccination by which the Small Pox, equal to their own Plague in the severity of its visitations, has been already disarmed of its terrors, and in the course of years may, possibly, be extinguished altogether.

(Signed) HENRY HALFORD,
President of the Royal Coll. of Physicians.
THOMAS TURNER,
JAMES TATTERSALL,
Censors of the Royal College of Physicians.
ASTLEY PASTON COOPER,
President of the Royal Coll. of Surgeons.
ANTHONY CARLISLE,
Vice Pres. of the Royal Coll. of Surgeons.
CLEM. HUE,
Registrar.

POISONING BY MILK.

(From the Boston Medical Journal.)

On the 21st of May last, at about 11, A. M., I was called to see a family said to have been poisoned.—The family consisted of seven, of whom four, viz., the lady of the family, her child, (a girl of four or five years,) a young woman who had been maid of the family, and who had just recovered from a pretty severe illness, and a little girl also a servant. The three remaining members of the family were males, and were not at home. About two hours after breakfast, that is, about 9 A. M. the females in quick succession and with little warning, were taken with nausea and vomiting. All, with the exception of the little servant girl, who refused, soon got full doses of ipecacuanha, which, by the time of my arrival had produced its full effect. At this time the lady was complaining of violent pain in the stomach, which had come on a few minutes before, the vomiting having previously ceased. Her countenance was very pale, her skin cool and moist, and her pulse feeble, though not extremely so. She was soon put into bed. Her child was laying in the lap quiet, and unwilling to be disturbed, but not in much apparent suffering. She also was very pale, her lips slightly livid, her skin cool and moist, and her pulse feeble. She had vomited a great deal, and was still occasionally retching. The young woman was the greatest sufferer. Her countenance was deadly pale, her lips and eyelids subvivid, and her expression wild. As I entered she was tossing her arms about, and stamping violently on the floor. She was however soon calmed, the fit being evidently of a hysteric character. She had continual and violent retchings, and complained of severe pain at the stomach. The little girl was apparently more easy.—Soon after her attack she had a slight dejection, which relieved her for some time.

From the mode of the attack, and their being simultaneously and similarly affected, there could be no doubt that the phenomena arose from a common cause, and that some noxious substance had been introduced into the stomach. I found on inquiry that their breakfast had consisted as usual of bread and butter, milk, eggs and coffee. No fish had been eaten in the family for two days previously. Some, but not all the family, had eaten cheese the preceding night. Whatever the poison might be, there was no question that it had been evacuated, as far as possible, by the vomiting, and the first indication was to check the inordinate action of the stomach, and, if possible allay the pain. Dr. George Hayward, who had been sent for, arriving soon after me, was of the same opinion; and by his advice laudanum was administered, in large doses, to all. Where it was not retained, opium pills were given with success.

Very soon our attention was called to the master of the house, who had come home on hearing of the sickness of his family. He was seized in the same manner with the rest. Soon after this, one, and then the other of the two remaining members of the household came home sick from their places of business. Laudanum was given to all three, and whether owing to this or some other cause, they suffered far less than those first affected. As soon as the stomach became sufficiently quiet, the comp. infus. sennæ was given, and repeated in moderate doses. Under this treatment they mostly improved. In one or two cases the coldness of the surface increased; in the child it became extreme, and for some time there was no pulse at the wrist: she came to, however, under the use of warm water and pægoric. Before 2 P. M., they were all well enough to be left. Dr. Hayward saw them again before 4 o'clock: and by that time, the medicine having opened the bowels, they were all decidedly relieved, with the exception of the little girl who was mentioned as less ill than the rest. She had refused medicine, and accordingly suffered longer than the others. On the next day a good deal of weakness was the only ill effect perceptible. As it was a great object to ascertain if possible, the nature of the deleterious substance, I brought away about five ounces of water, and as much milk, for chemical analysis. The water I took from the copper boiler, in which the water used at breakfast had been boiled. The vessel had not been cleaned for many days.—So important a matter is this, that it is a regulation both in our army and navy, that the copper cooking utensils shall be inspected once a day by the surgeon or his assistants. The water came through leaden pipes, but was the same that they had used for a year. The milk was taken from an earthen pan, the same which that used at breakfast had been taken from.

The analysis of the milk and the water was performed by my friend, Dr. Charles T. Jackson, whose familiarity with the process of analytical chemistry entitles the results of his investigation to the fullest confidence. Not being able to see him when I left the substances at his house, I could give him no clue to his discovery. The next day, he told me he had detected, in the milk, subacetate of copper in very sensible quantities. I have been unable to discover by what means the poison was communicated to the milk. The account of the analysis drawn up by Dr. Jackson, and which is subjoined, puts the fact beyond question. It only shows the necessity of great care, on the part of housekeepers, &c., not only as to the vessels in which articles of food are kept and preserved, but also as to the places where they are deposited.

Three only of the family took milk alone.—The quantity taken by the others was of course, very small, as it was taken in coffee. What is, perhaps, worthy of remark, is that these last took sugar with their coffee—and this is the substance which Orfila says is the best antidote to the poison of verdigris. He states, to be sure, that large quantities are necessary for it to be of any avail; but in those cases the quantity of sugar must unquestionably have been to the quantity of verdigris at least as 30 to 1.—Those who took milk alone, however, were the first seized. F. J. HIGGINSON.

ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FOOD.

(From a Letter in an American Paper.)

Some few years since, I travelled through several countries in Europe, and particularly remarked the diet, not only of the peasantry, but that of those in affluence; and the difference between them and us, not only in quantity, but in the quality of food, was very remarkable. With the Irish, we find potatoes, milk, buttermilk and coarse bread, constitute almost the only nutriment of the labouring classes, with the exception of fish, eaten by those located on the sea shore and lakes. In Scotland, a very considerable portion of the food of the population is oatmeal, vegetables, some farinaceous eatables, with but little flesh. In France, soup, with black bread, vegetables, pulse, grapes, apples &c. with little animal food, constitute the principal part of their support. In England, the mechanics and labourers, particularly the latter, eat but little meat; their diet is generally bread, (called brown bread) cheese, potatoes, and other vegetables, with beer, (called small beer,) and cider, as a beverage.