

In Africa, nearly everyone is pock-marked. The mortality from smallpox ranges from 25 to 50 per cent. In fact, in every nation where vaccination is not in force and the people are not vaccinated, the mortality from this disease ranges from 10 to 40 per cent. In 1914 the deaths from smallpox in Germany were 7, while in the neighboring countries where vaccination was not compulsory the number of deaths annually ranged from 800 to 5,821.

Previous to the time of Jenner, 95 per cent. of the people exposed to smallpox contracted the disease and an average of 25 per cent of these proved fatal. It has been estimated that an average of 90 per cent. of those not vaccinated, if brought into direct contact with the disease, will contract it, and at the same time it has been demonstrated that at least 90 per cent. of those vaccinated if brought in direct contact with the disease, will escape infection. The number of cases of smallpox in any community is a true index of the extent to which compulsory vaccination is being enforced and is also accepted as an accurate index to the intelligence of the people.

It is obvious then that the only objection that so-called conscientious objectors to vaccination can raise is the alleged dangers of complications from impure vaccine itself following the operation of vaccination, and it is regrettable that we have had such gross exaggeration and misrepresentation in this connection. In the first place, practically all the vaccine used for the vaccination of our children is glycerinated vaccine and prepared at the Connaught Laboratories, under the supervision of the best recognized experts in the country. This vaccine is guaranteed to be absolutely free from any pathogenic germs.

One can understand that in the early history of vaccination, when direct inoculation took place, and when the arm to arm process of vaccination was in vogue, that that procedure left itself open to objections, and the possibilities of undesirable complications. That procedure is now condemned by our Legislature and is no longer permitted, and therefore need not enter into the discussion of this subject.

ALLEGED DANGERS FROM VACCINATION.

The gross misrepresentations of facts in this connection by those opposed to vaccination and for the purpose of discrediting vaccination might be looked upon, in the light of modern knowledge, on this subject, as a huge joke, if it were not for the tragedy of it. Fortunately these people are not taken seriously by the intelligent, but there is a large number of people in every municipality who have not the time nor the opportunity to obtain the facts, and that is my apology for bringing this problem before your Board. These people must be protected against these misrepresentations as well as against the smallpox.

It must be distinctly understood that the operation for vaccination is a minor surgical operation. That is, the epidermis, or outer layer of skin, is