

find that others had made like observations with myself, and I will read you a note received from my colleague, Dr. Laberge, public vaccinator in Eastern District. In regard to vaccination in cases of skin diseases: From my experience as public vaccinator, I can state that I have vaccinated in various kinds of skin eruption without any bad effect. Moreover, I would have no hesitation in any kind of skin diseases, as I would expect no bad result to follow. I have remarked that in some cases the eruption is increased immediately after vaccination but again declines. As to the point raised whether cases are cured by vaccination, I have not followed up the cases vaccinated to be in a position to state the final effects.

In conversation with a lady patient a day or two ago, she narrated to me a circumstance bearing on this subject. A number of years ago she was residing temporarily at Berthier, P.Q., with a friend who had a child with a severe and obstinate eruption on the head. A Dr. Mull, a resident physician (an old Norwester), after trying various remedies, told the mother that he would try vaccination, and did so with the happiest results. The child recovered immediately. (I must apologise for introducing this tale here, but I have taken pains to verify it, and believe the above to be a narration of facts).

I am fully convinced from observation that the three following propositions embody the conclusions to be drawn from my own experience as public vaccinator.

1st. Pure vaccine when introduced into the system of the human subject acts as an eliminator, and *drives out*, or causes to appear on the surface, any latent blood poisons that may have been lurking in the system. Hence practitioners are sometimes unjustly censured where an eruption has followed vaccination.

2nd. No harm can arise from the vaccination of children suffering from cutaneous eruptions.

3rd. Not only will no harm result, but because of an eliminative or alterative action of the vaccine virus on the human system, impurities in the blood may be got rid of, and many cutaneous diseases (not of parasitic origin, but depending upon the presence of some blood taint or poison in the system) may be radically cured by it.

4th. From all this it must be apparent to the most casual observer that the use of lymph taken from human subjects must always be attended with considerable risk.

Lastly. From what I have tried to bring before you, I think it must be apparent that in vaccine virus we have something of much greater importance to the profession than a mere prophylactic against small-pox; that in fact it is powerfully eliminative and depurative in its action, which will recall to mind the popular prejudice that the human system is always much more free from impurities after an attack of small-pox than before.

An interesting discussion then followed.

Dr. Kennedy said, with respect to the theory of the antagonism of blood poisons, advanced by Dr. Bessey, there appeared to be a possibility of such antagonism producing good results. He had recently a severe case of Psoriasis in a child, in which various remedies had been tried without success. Diphtheria ensued, and, on recovery from the latter, the skin affection entirely disappeared. With regard to vaccinating a child suffering from eczema, he thought it was improper, as the eruption was likely to be made worse, and thus bring discredit on vaccination. Some time ago had seen a child that Dr. Bessey had vaccinated a few days previously, this child was very scrofulous, and there existed an eczematous eruption and favus of the scalp. Since the vaccination the eczema was very much worse, and the favus had spread to the arm, which was severely inflamed from shoulder to elbow. The parents loudly condemned the vaccination, and could not be convinced but what the vaccine had poisoned the arm. Fortunately the disease yielded in a few weeks to the usual remedies. This case was an example of the impropriety of vaccinating under such circumstances, and therefore he would not favor the operation in skin diseases.

Dr. Reddy would like to ask Dr. Bessey how long a time usually elapsed after vaccination until a cure was effected.

Dr. Ross thought conclusions drawn in the paper too general. The number of cases reported were too few to enable the Society to form an opinion. A large number of cases would be required. As to how vaccine acts to produce this effect is pure speculation. The attempt to show that cases of secondary syphilitis and purely local chronic skin affections are amenable to treatment by this means was going too far, notwithstanding that Dr. Grant's cases were reported in substantiation of the theory. He thought the subject deserving of greater attention in future so as to define