

Unless we are occasionally awakened up by an epidemic, the tendency to neglect all forms of safeguarding ourselves grows upon us, and we do not like to take the trouble to render ourselves safe. It is difficult to convince people who have never seen the ravages of smallpox that it is an essential thing that their children should be vaccinated (and run the chances of a few days' illness or a very sore arm) for the sake of being prepared for an evil that is unknown to them, and therefore entirely unappreciated. There certainly have been evils in connection with vaccination, but what are the very worst of those compared to an epidemic of true smallpox in an unvaccinated neighborhood? It would be safe to pay no attention to these anti-vaccinationists, and class them with the followers of Christian Science, the Dowieites, Vitosophists, Osteopathists, etc., were they not such a menace by reason of their position as guardians of the public health. We see very many apparently sensible people led off by these fads, so it becomes our duty to impart to them all the knowledge we can on these important questions of health and disease, and particularly along the line of preventive medicine.

Germany has possibly the most compulsory system of vaccination in the world known, and the result is that smallpox is almost vanished from the empire. In 1899, with a population of 54,000,000, there were only 28 deaths and these nearly all came in from an adjoining country.

If we consider the duty of the true physician is to stand by all measures that tend to promote health and prevent disease, there should be some way then of punishing those doctors who encourage the laity in their foolishness in combatting the laws which are intended for their best interests. Such action is certainly highly reprehensible, and it is hard to believe physicians of any school could be guilty of talking such "utter nonsense" as was attributed to them at one of their anti-vaccination meetings. It is highly probable that Dr. Councilman's great discovery of the germ that causes smallpox will assist us in a short time to a better understanding of the *rationale* of vaccination. Two years ago the then President, Dr. McKinnon, referred to the great and often serious delay there was in gaining admission to our asylums for cases of acute mania, particularly with those at a distance. This need never occur at present time with our long distance telephone facilities, if our physicians are only careful enough to supply sufficient information. In all our asylums the superintendents are anxious to take in and look after this class of cases, and if applying physicians will but send full particulars setting forth the