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SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

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Under the head Preventable Complications and Accidents of Vaccination, are included all such as have no necessary connection with cowpox, *i.e.*, are not due to either the essential qualities of vaccine lymph or the peculiarities of the individual affected. It is, perhaps, not customary to consider the acute infectious diseases—scarlatina, for example—during the incubation stage of which vaccination may have been performed, as *preventable* complications. In the strict sense, however, they are so. They are in no way related to vaccinia, except in time and individual, and no amount of vaccination, apart from an exposure to the specific infection of these diseases, could have any influence in causing their development. Fortunately, the results of vaccinating those sickening of infectious diseases are not disastrous, even though patients may be caused more discomfort and suffering thereby, and in some instances it may even be proper to proceed with the operation as the lesser of two evils. There are, however, other preventable complications which have a definite connection with vaccination and which may be serious enough in themselves. They call for a closer consideration, because of the fact that they can be almost certainly avoided by use of proper precautions on the part of physician and patient.

Infection with the diseases in question may come either at the time of vaccination or subsequent to it; it may come either at the hands of the operator—by instrument or lymph—or after the case is practically from under his control. Of these preventable complications of vaccination, syphilis, crsipelas,