

played no contemptible part in suppressing the epidemic. But, the most careful attention paid to infected houses, coupled with the most judicious series of removals to hospital, could not have eradicated the disease, had it not been for the district vaccinators.

As early as the 2nd February, the Chairman of the Board of Health had written to the editor of the *Morning Telegraph*, a letter, in which he dwelt upon the impossibility of using the public infirmary as a small-pox hospital; the hopelessness of expecting to extirpate the disease through the medium of any hospital, and the pressing necessity of attending to private vaccination. This last piece of advice was much needed, for, as it afterwards turned out, there were then in the city more than 6,000 unprotected people, or about one-fifth of the entire population.* The necessity for a public vaccination soon became apparent and pressing. Owing to various causes, the chief of which was the absence of a compulsory vaccination law—a defect which, I regret to say, still remains unremedied—there was a great scarcity of lymph in the city. Moreover, there are, in every large community, a certain class of the people who will not look after their own protection as they are influenced by a dread of vaccination, the combined result of ignorance and quackery, which nothing short of the fear of imminent death can overcome. Lastly, the poorer people, who need vaccination most of all, can never be properly attended to by private practitioners. In view of all these considerations a public vaccination was instituted, and to this wise and prudent measure we owe the speedy extinction of the disease that followed. Without it we might have been, at this present moment, sharing the fate of many large cities of Europe and America, which have had the disease domesticated among them for many months, with lamentable waste both of life and public and private expenditure.

The city was divided into ten districts, and, to each of these was appointed a physician to inspect its inhabitants and vaccinate or re-vaccinate such of them as he might find unprotected. The undertaking was commenced upon the 3rd March, and completed in the course of a few weeks, 5,379 people being vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, at a cost to the public of a little over sixteen hundred dollars. Never was public money better invested.

The new cases which, in February and March, had been occurring at the rate of two or three a day, declined, in April, to three or four a week, and by the third week in May the disease had

* Between 10th February and 19th May there were vaccinated or re-vaccinated: By the District Vaccinators, 5,379; at the Board of Health office, 875. Total, 6,254. Besides what was done in private practice, and what Dr. Holden and myself did among the infected families and their neighbors.