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## Original Communications.

### SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

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During the year 1898, and till the end of February, 1899, there were reported in Ontario 46 cases of smallpox with no deaths; in 1899, 341 cases, 14 deaths; in 1900, 163 cases, 13 deaths; in 1901 there were reported 1,879 cases, with 12 deaths. Up to the date of writing in the present year there have been reported 700 cases, with 4 deaths, 2 of these from the hemorrhagic type of the disease. The disease is becoming of a more severe type, as is common in smallpox and kindred infections. This is proven by the fact that the average detention in hospital or quarantine has considerably increased for the last few months, that the death rate is rising, and that a smaller proportion of cases can be classed as varioloid, a larger as discrete and coherent or confluent smallpox.

The condition of affairs in our own Province being such as represented, and taking into account the added circumstance that a very considerable epidemic of smallpox exists in the United States at the present time, there can be no two opinions as to the necessity of employing all possible means to combat the disease. The means at present at our disposal are threefold: (1) Police measures; (2) Sanitary measures; (3) Protective vaccination. Of police measures it is not necessary to say more than a word. No one doubts their usefulness when carried out with common sense and honesty. The most perfect measures of this kind hitherto devised, even when their application has been comparatively strict and conscientious have, however, failed to control ultimately the spread of smallpox when once it has