

deeds were put under the search-light, were Drs. W. F. McBrien and Willson, of Toronto. Many witnesses, both medical and lay, were examined in all the cases, the Committee thus being able to give a full report at the next session of the Council. An erroneous idea prevails with many, that this committee not only examines the cases but gives judgment as well. On the contrary, it simply takes the evidence and makes a report to its ruling body.

Whatever may be the outcome of these cases, the mere fact of the trial occurring should be a warning to keep those liable to stray from the right path. That there are some is shown by the report of Detective Wasson. He named nine medical men for unprofessional conduct, but so far the evidence in four cases only has been prepared. Our advice is, "*Cave canem.*"

VACCINE—ITS QUALITY AND THE METHOD OF PROCURING.

One of the laws in our public school system requires successful vaccination of children before they are permitted to enter any of the schools. This fact necessitates every physician vaccinating a number of cases every year, some more and some less. Leaving this aside, the strong and thorough faith put in vaccine as a preventative of small-pox by most parents, brings the children to our hands at a younger age than would be necessary for school purposes.

These things bring before us the necessity of having good, fresh vaccine easily procurable by all medical men. Unfortunately, quite the reverse is the case in this city, and presumably in all parts of the Dominion.

You are sent for to vaccinate a child anywhere from three months of age to five years, and after some trouble you get your points. Now, it is not a serious or troublesome operation, but it hurts the child quite sufficiently to create considerable rumpus, disquieting both the patient and its mother, and you leave, hoping the work is over. Much to your disgust, you get word, in a few days, that "It did not take," and you have to go through the same performance again, and, in many cases, have considerable worry in making the family believe that it was not your fault. They really do not

understand why your vaccine is not fresh, and why you have not seen that it is so.

You understand it, however, and silently utter anathemas against your source of supply. What, then, is this source of supply? It easily fits itself in three places: (1) The city health office. Here you send down or go down to get what points you may need, and two to one they have none—either just out or expecting them every mail; or if they have them they give you two or three out of a broken package—how long open it would be hard to say—and if you object to that they simply want you to buy a whole package. *Apropos* of the health office, a little incident that occurred to a medical man in the city would not be out of place. Requiring three points, he went to the office to get them. Being assured they were fresh—which in this case could not have been so, as not one of them took, to use the common expression—he paid 15 cents for them, as he used to do under the old *regime*, and had scarcely got back to his office when through his telephone he was informed that the points were now 10 cents each. He said he would call the next time he was down town, but they were too impatient. Inside of a week a collector called three times with a bill of 15 cents, the number of times being necessary because he could not change a bill. It was a laughable incident, even the collector feeling himself called upon to apologize. (2) The druggists, who keep their stock in from year to year, and hardly see the point—no pun meant—of why points should not be fresh or good if a package has been opened. (3) Palmerston Vaccine Farm, controlled by Dr. Stewart. To there we can write and get points by the package, but as the fee for vaccinating would not cover the cost of the package, the absurdity of obtaining them in this way is easily seen. Without reflecting on the proprietor or the excellence of this farm, there is a suggestion of a want of control about it—a want of some responsible party, or better, government at the head of it to give us a feeling of security that we can depend on fresh points being sent to places where they may be obtained. We know that, when ordered, the vaccine obtained here is first-class, but that is not all we need.

Such an important subject as this should be taken up and settled. It is important not only to the profession but to the great public. One of