

called my attention to the fact that, vaccine virus as obtained in this country by transmission through various persons at last suddenly loses its specific character and power of reproduction, although the person from whom it was last taken had shown symptoms under its duration of active irritation and high local inflammation. My own experience in some measure confirmed this view of the subject, having occasionally failed several consecutive times in vaccinating from what seemed to be a fine, large, sound, healthy crust or scab; and on the other hand having succeeded in a number of cases in succession from a small miserable looking crust, but I was in the habit of attributing my ill-success in the former case to constitutional causes in my patient, or to the fact that the crust had been too long or imperfectly preserved.

On this subject I will, without comment, relate the results of my recent experience in one particular instance. On Monday, the 11th December, I procured a fresh vaccine crust from the arm of a lovely, healthy child of eight months old, which I had watched with intense anxiety, although I had not vaccinated it myself, from the fact that both parents also were young and healthy as well as the child, which, to use an expressive term, had suffered from the pox, being one of the largest and finest I ever saw. Between Tuesday the 12th and Friday the 15th instant, I vaccinated nineteen persons from this crust,—ladies and gentlemen—children and adults, and all among the best and healthiest class of the community, and *not one solitary individual took the infection*. On the other hand, as large a proportion of cases as usual vaccinated with virus from other sources during the same period took freely.

One circumstance connected with adult re-vaccination of females, and particularly elderly ones, whether matrons or maids, struck me as remarkable, viz.: the extraordinary and unusual amount of systematic irritation and local inflammation that has occurred, the latter frequently extending up to the shoulder and into the axilla affecting the glands, and in some instances also considerably below the elbow joint. Such has been the case in many instances where I have also vaccinated young members of the same family and from the same virus, so that it could only be attributed to constitutional causes.

The question now presents itself with reference to the character of the virus, whether it had lost its specific action or not previous to its use on the 19 persons on whom I tried it, and whether it would a prophylactic to the small-pox in the child from which I procured it?

Time will not permit me to enlarge upon the subject at present, but I trust that the hints I have thrown out may be of service and lead to some useful conclusions and practical results. As to the manner of introducing or applying the virus, the plan I adopt is so painless that infants scar-