

the humblest, honest seeker after truth. The right of free thought, free enquiry and free speech to all everywhere is as clear as the noonday and bounteous as the air and the sea."

If all professed seekers after truth were only honest in their views we could have no quarrel with them, even though we might differ in the result of our investigations. Some talk loudly on these subjects simply for effect, and are not honest in their statements, but desirous to achieve notoriety. Others talk through ignorance, having never taken either the time or labor to obtain for themselves the facts of the case. Then added to these classes we have the cranks and bores who will have a word in any way, even if it be but to repeat again and again some set speech.

At the same time it is the duty of the medical profession to continue to do as they have done in the past, ascertain all the facts in the case, study out the underlying truths and put them so far as we can in the possession of the public. We must, so far as in us lies, continue to protect the public from themselves even though we may often be called hard names and lie under the charge that we are working with interested motives. On the contrary we have motives of the very highest and noblest character; viz., the best interest of humanity; the desire to have justice done to the poorest and humblest who have not the means of protecting themselves from the scourges (such as smallpox, etc.), that may devastate and destroy countless numbers as in the past. Smallpox from being a dreaded scourge has become a disease seldom seen, and its increased prevalence during past few years may well be ascribed to our increasing carelessness in vaccination.

Unless we are occasionally awakened up by an epidemic the tendency to neglect all forms of safeguarding ourselves grows upon us and we do not like to take the trouble to render ourselves safe. It is difficult to convince people who have never seen the ravages of smallpox that it is an essential thing that their children should be vaccinated (and run the chances of a few days' illness or a very sore arm) for the sake of being prepared for an evil that is unknown to them and, therefore, entirely unappreciated. There certainly have been evils in connection with vaccination, but what are the very worst of those compared to an epidemic of true smallpox in an unvaccinated neighborhood? It would be safe to pay no attention to these anti-vaccinationists, and class them in with the followers of Christian Science, the Dowieites, Virosophists, Osteopathists, etc., were they not such a menace by reason of their position as guardians of the public health. We see very many apparently sensible people led off by these fads, so it becomes our duty to impart to them all the knowledge we can on these important questions of health and disease, and particularly along the line of preventive medicine.

Germany has possibly the most compulsory system of vaccina-