

ments and advancements is, in my mind, doubtful. That there are some that are unquestionable, but the majority soon find their way to the "tomb of all the Capulets." Once in about every decade of years old things pass away: the teaching of books, of professors, of journals, are laid aside, theories and speculations ignored, doctrines taught, and claims on behalf of old remedies of the *Materia Medica* abandoned, giving way to advancing science and perhaps a better philosophy; but amid all the revolutions going on in the intellectual, moral, and scientific world there is great comfort in the reflection that principles never change—they are immutable and eternal.

(Owing to the serious illness of Dr. David, the above paper was read by Dr. F. W. Campbell.)

## Correspondence.

### A NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTION.

Editor MEDICAL RECORD.

DEAR SIR,—After several years' experience as Public Vaccinator, and familiarity thus gained of the requirements of the public vaccination service to make the practice popular or general, I am satisfied that the great essentials in the lymph made use of are *purity* and *reliability*. These can, I am also convinced, be *best*, and, I might add, *only* secured by a regular service of young healthy heifers, by means of which the stock can be kept up in perpetual succession, and a vaccine famine prevented. I have found the most prejudiced were willing to allow their infants to be vaccinated when they were informed that the lymph was from heifers.

We are fortunate in possessing one of the best stocks of vaccine ever propagated anywhere, which is from a purely Canadian source.

I have used lymph from other sources, and in each case there were objectionable features in the results, with one exception, namely, that propagated by Dr. E. J. Griffin, of Fond du Lac, which gave results in every way seasonable and satisfactory, but in no respect superior, if equal, to that propagated from the Canadian source. After several years' experience in the propagation of heifer lymph, acquainted with the expense, and painstaking necessary, I am satisfied that a well equipped institution or stable is requisite for success.

I have therefore, by every means at my disposal, advocated and urged upon the Corporation of Montreal, the Local and Dominion Governments,

this view, and the desirability of establishing a national vaccine institution. I have so far succeeded as to have had a sum of three hundred dollars placed in the estimates of the Treasurer of the Province of Quebec during last session for the encouragement of this enterprise.

I also succeeded in obtaining from the then Premier, Mr. Chapleau, a letter to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada, J. H. Pope, M.P., offering the use of ten acres of the Government farm at the Tanneries in perpetuity for the purposes of such an institution, provided the Dominion Government would build or aid in building thereon suitable buildings in which to carry on the work of animal vaccination.

In the full hope of realising the hoped-for Government aid to establish an institution for the propagation of pure animal vaccine lymph on a sound and substantial foundation, I was induced to change the name of my enterprise to that of the Canadian Vaccine Institute, and to offer lymph to municipalities, etc., within the Province of Quebec at reduced rates.

Should the profession, or any number of them, club together, in the absence of Government action, to erect suitable buildings required to conduct the business upon the Government site offered by the Provincial Government of Quebec; or should, in the near future, the hoped-for Government aid be given, I would suggest that, on the erection of the enterprise into an institute of a national character, a Board of Directors or Visitors be appointed from among the profession to exercise a general supervision of the character and working of the institution, and to give confidence to the public that the money subsidy was being wisely expended for the furtherance of the enterprise as intended—such Committee to number *seven*, and to include a representative from each of the local medical schools, McGill, Victoria, Bishop's and Laval; also one from the Montreal Veterinary College, Professor McEachran, and one from the general profession resident in Montreal, and one resident in Quebec. Eventually each teaching body in the Dominion might be represented on the Supervisory Committee, thus giving a truly cosmopolitan and national character to the institute.

It is too late in the day, notwithstanding the proportion of failures, to enter upon an advocacy of the desirability of animal vaccination as a source of supply for general vaccination purposes—that is admitted, more especially since the spread of