

as perfectly protected as if it had passed through a severe attack. So it is with smallpox. If one is fortunate enough to contract the disease in a mild form, he secures immunity against a virulent form of the disease. In bovine animals smallpox assumes a mild type, which it retains when introduced into the human system.

The operation of vaccination does not cause death. There are some who are very sensitive and in such cases the arm may be quite painful for a few days, and there may be sufficient constitutional disturbances to compel the person to remain at rest or even in bed. This is, however, a simple affair to smallpox even in a mild form. All the scare talk about loss of arms and loss of life is pure unadulterated falsehood. The records of vaccination for the past one hundred years prove that it is a perfectly safe operation.

Now, grant that a person has a mild attack of the disease, he will be quarantined in his home or in a hospital for an average of six weeks. With vaccination in the vast majority of cases he will lose no time, and will not be deprived of his liberty. If he is quarantined at home, all his family are imprisoned with him, and the family is cut off from the outer world until the patient has made a recovery, and is free from infection.

But turn for a moment to the death-rate from smallpox. There have been epidemics that ranged all the way from 25 per cent. to 58 per cent. mortality. If the people were dying in Toronto at the rate of even one in one hundred cases there would be a perfect stampede to be vaccinated. Many years ago there was an epidemic in the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia with a death-rate of 58.6 per cent. Among those who contracted the disease, and who had never been vaccinated. Such a death-rate would strike terror into the hearts of our most ardent anti-vaccinationists.

The stock and trade argument that it is wrong to introduce any disease into the system and the shout that vaccine is pus fall to the ground. When a doctor is called to attend a child with diphtheria he forthwith gives the patient a dose of antidiphtheritic serum, obtained from the horse. But he goes further, and gives a protecting dose to the other children in the house who have been exposed. If we had a vaccine that would immunize against tuberculosis there would be few indeed who would neglect to take advantage of the protection. It is perfectly sound practice to introduce into the body a mild and safe infection in order that a severe and often fatal one may be escaped. The use of the term pus is only to scare the ignorant and play upon prejudice.