

"Looks air deceivin', maw; and the best o' lem'nade made ain't fit stuff to put into one's stummicks."

"I've heerd it was healthy, paw."

"Well, it ain't; it's—jest see that fool clown!"

"I'm mighty dry, paw."

"Well, the show won't last more'n an hour longer, I reckon, an' then we'll hunt up a good well."

### VACCINATION.

For a time Jenner's discovery was bitterly opposed by the profession; and even some of those who adopted it claimed that inoculation directly from the *grease* of the horse into the human body was as protective as that which passed through the cow. Then came the claim that the virus taken from the person inoculated with the cow-pox could be used to protect other persons; and, as the symptoms thus produced were less severe than direct inoculation from the cow, this method of vaccination soon became the prevailing one. At first, however, it was considered necessary to have recourse to the cow for a fresh supply of virus every few years; but even this was soon regarded as unnecessary, and so the practice of vaccination from arm to arm was almost universally relied upon as a preventive of small-pox for half a century.

At first all agreed with Jenner that one vaccination protected a person for life against small-pox; this, however, was soon found to be untrue. Then one thorough vaccination in infancy and one after puberty were deemed necessary. This also proved a delusion. Its advocates next advised the practice to be repeated at maturity. Then it was thought necessary that it should be repeated every seven years; and now, to insure perfect immunity, it is claimed that every one should be vaccinated every two or three years.

As the question now stands, it is impossible to ascertain what constitutes effective vaccination. In every country where it is practiced, the profession is divided respecting the merits of humanized and bovine virus. One party claims that vaccination from arm to arm is more certain, and that it can do no harm. The other contends that it does not protect, and that numerous diseases are communicated thereby, while they claim that the calf virus is certain and harmless. The calf virus that is used in America, as well as in Europe, was first obtained by inoculation from the spontaneous cow-pox, and Jenner declared that this would not protect against small-pox. Again, some have advocated the inoculation of a cow with small-pox virus to obtain a supply of vaccine virus, while others claim that this only spreads the small-pox.

The truth is that no two physicians agree as to what constitutes effective vaccination; whatever way we look at the question it is certain that none of the methods now employed correspond with the discovery of Jenner; and the time is not far distant when all will be rejected.

Had Jenner been a conscientious searcher after truth he never would have asserted, six years after he commenced his investigations, that the vaccine disease "for ever after secured against the infection of small-pox." Had he been a real scientist he would never have invented new theories to account for every failure in the results of his investigations, at least till a sufficient number of years had elapsed to prove the general truth of his assertion. Had he discovered any actual scientific truth, it would have come down to us precisely as he gave it to the public in 1798.

The great popular dread of small-pox was such at Jenner's time that anything that promised protection from it would have been accepted. Thus the medical profession,

many of whom were opposed to it, soon found it to their interest to accept vaccination, and thus it became rooted in the ignorance and prejudice of the people, and ignorance and cupidity have since combined to uphold it.

It requires but a casual glance to see the similarity of the claims of the methods of Jenner and Pasteur, yet doctors and laymen will uphold the one as proven fact and condemn the other as unworthy of consideration.

"Does not vaccination prevent small-pox?" we are asked. We answer, No! Improved sanitary conditions and the removal of small-pox patients before the stage of contagion develops, have prevented small-pox, and vaccination gets all the credit. Vaccination alone has never been tried; those who are vaccinated are more afraid of catching small-pox than those who have not been vaccinated. Statistics have been falsified as a pretext of continuing this monster fallacy in the interests of those who make money out of it, or are too conservative to investigate the truth for themselves.

"Are not all the leading men in the medical profession believers in vaccination?" we are again asked. Not all. A brilliant array of names are recorded as opposed to vaccination *in toto*, while Huxley, Spencer, Newman, Gladstone, and a host of other leading scientists and thinkers have expressed themselves as in doubt, but unequivocally opposed to any form of compulsory vaccination. But numbers prove nothing in such a case in the face of facts. All doctors refused to give water to fever patients till a comparatively recent date, but now all admit they were wrong. Blood-letting was believed to be the only safety in the treatment of many diseases, but the "cranks" proved the practice wrong, and the doctors were obliged to give up their lancets. Dr. Morton was cast into prison and accused of witchcraft by the doctors of Boston for demonstrating that ether would destroy sensibility to pain, and that, too, as late as 1848; but to-day the civilized world recognizes the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of ether as one of the greatest blessings ever given to mankind. And we fully believe that we will live to see the day when the medical profession will blush for the ignorance that so long upheld the fallacy of vaccination—that remnant of the fetichism of a past age.

WALT WHITMAN said recently that he had never received any "nourishment" from any American poetry, nor from any contemporaneous foreign poetry. The only poetry that had nourished him was Sir Walter Scott's Border minstrelsy, particularly Sir Walter's memoranda of interviews with old Scotsmen and Scotswomen respecting the folk-lore of their earlier days. The folk-lore of witchcraft was especially interesting to him. But he found the Bible to be his best book of poetry, and he never travelled without a copy of it, nor passed a day at home without reading it. His views as to personal immortality became clearer as he grew older, and in no sense of the term did he regard himself as an agnostic. While Mr. Whitman was speaking, two bright boys were clambering up his knees and embracing his snowy head. They called him "Uncle Walt," and he kissed them passionately. They are his favourite playmates when he is visiting this city. Though the venerable poet's mind is in an entirely normal condition, he is unable to walk across the room without assistance. Several painters are painting his portrait, and he declares himself as very rarely suited; in fact, as harder to please in this matter than he was twenty-five years ago.—*The Interior*.

THE Goethe Society has decided to put Goethe's father's house in Frankfort into the same condition in which Goethe knew it.