

# The Medical Chronicle.

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LICET OMNIBUS, LICET NOBIS, DIGNITATEM ARTIS MEDICÆ TUERI.

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A VACCINE DEPOT.—Physicians generally are often in need of Vaccine virus from various reasons. Either an excess of good nature leads them to part with their little store to some brother practitioner requiring it more urgently than themselves, or an unusually long run of no-vaccination engagements happens and ends in rendering the stock on hand so impaired as to be valueless. In this last case, of course, no return can follow, and in the former it is altogether problematical, for the loan is rarely refunded—indeed it has almost become a custom with many to consider such an act uncalled for. Country physicians are especially open to this charge, and do much towards exhausting the supplies of their town friends: we know of no instance where one of the number has returned the obligation in kind. These then are instances of the manner in which the vaccine fund fails. And we believe much would be done to avert them by the establishment of a Vaccine Depot; while it would at the same time be admitted to be a welcome accommodation to all parties. Owing to the facilities of keeping a constant supply of live Virus, in consequence of its self-multiplication properties, and the daily frequency of its employment, we feel assured that such an establishment, if conducted on proper arrangements, and in conformity with strict rules, would be found to work very advantageously. For the inconveniences felt by single members of the profession would not extend to it. A large supply sufficient for the demands of both the city and surrounding district could be always available, and kept fresh by a renewal to be enforced by close looking after. A vaccine depot might easily be connected with some of the charitable institutions here, such as the General Hospital or University Lying-in Hospital or Dispensary. It would often, we are sure, be a great relief to a person, already straitened, to refer an importunate solicitor to such a place where he might get the necessary article upon the payment of a small sum of money, or by leaving a deposit of a fixed amount to be returned when a new crust had been received.

Such an Institution might furthermore be of great benefit in other ways, as by keeping records of statements furnished by Physicians of the prevalence of Variola, the apparent mitigation or failure of the Vaccine virus, the results of re-vaccination, and many other equally interesting points of an analagous character, which could easily