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SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION.

Contagion is very often capricious, but the contagion of small-pox is by far the most virulent, excepting cholera, which we have to deal with, and but for the immortal discovery of Dr. Jenner would perhaps have continued to prevail as one of the most terrible scourges of the human race.

Montreal at the present time is afflicted with this unwelcome trouble, but if the truth were told perhaps small-pox is hardly ever completely stamped out there, owing, no doubt, to the unconcerned and inconsiderate behaviour of a large class of her population.

People of the present day who complain of the temporary inconvenience and slight danger of vaccination, are only doing so through superstition and ignorance of the horrible suffering, disgusting deformity, and terrible mortality which attended small-pox in former times, previous to the discovery of vaccination.

In the 18th century the mortality was so great that one out of every four died of this disgusting malady, and when we consider that every one seized with it became immediately an object of danger, dread and loathing, even to his or her dearest friends, and if recovery took place was, as a rule, generally rendered repulsive for life. We can even in a small measure realize what a blessing Jenner's discovery has been to the world.

In walking the streets of Montreal, a stranger is soon struck with the evidences of small-pox, and may be told casually that the French population, with perhaps some exceptions, do not look upon the disease with such holy horror as their English-speaking neighbours, and are, in consequence, less careful in preventing contagion.

The contagion of small-pox is extremely active, if not carefully and studiously guarded against. It may spread rapidly through a house and to neighbouring

dwellings, although in many cases it may attack only one member of a large family and all the others escape. But the surest and best known method to avoid contagion is to be vaccinated and re-vaccinated if the disease happens to be prevalent. Re-vaccination is necessary because, although in a majority of instances, a single vaccination, if perfect, protects through life, and always prevents fatal or deformed results, if attacked by the disease, in a minority of cases this security becomes less and less with advancing years, or where a person's system has undergone such changes as to have completely thrown off the effects of the virus injected when a child. And as yet we have no means of distinguishing those individuals; consequently it is safest and best to revaccinate for the public and personal good.

We could easily quote from history many facts in favour of vaccination and the vaccination laws, but leave that for others to do, and merely close by summarizing the experience of the 18th and 19th centuries, viz.:

1st. The great means whereby small-pox may be wholly exterminated, at least as a loathsome and dangerous disease, is universal vaccination.

2nd. Small-pox is one of the greatest curses of man, whilst vaccination, under these circumstances, is one of his greatest blessings.

FALL EXHIBITIONS.

When going to press Ontario is in the midst of her usual fall exhibitions.

London Exhibition was in point of Exhibits very good, but the receipts, owing to several wet days, will doubtless fail in meeting the large expenditure which was incurred to make the Provincial fair a great success.

The Governor-General opened the exhibition, and was received all round in the kindest and most gracious manner; his short rule already in Canada has endeared the people to him as an honest constitutional governor of the Crown. His speech referred to the very striking difference in all commercial and agricultural statistics in favor of Ontario as compared with the entire Dominion. Perhaps he could with equal justice have declared that Ontario was also the milch-cow of the Dominion, but his position precludes stating the whole truth.