

Previous to the extensive investigations of Copeman, Klins and others, a host of infections were classed as complications of vaccinia, but since these men have so clearly shown that the streptococcus of erysipelas, and the bacillus of tubercle, etc. are destroyed by being incorporated with a sterilized solution of pure glycerine and water, without markedly attenuating the virulence of the lymph, there is no reason why a carefully conducted inoculation should be followed by any sequelæ other than those discussed.

The use of the bovine lymph excludes the possibility of syphilitic infection and with the care now exercised in the preparation of the lymph and the selection of the animal, the rigid examination they are subjected to for the discovery of skin lesions or tubercle, the post mortem examination in search of unhealthy organs, and finally the testing of the efficacy of the virus before it leaves the laboratory, puts it almost beyond the realm of possibility that infection should be carried by the lymph.

In something over 1,600 cases I have had the opportunity of watching during the past two months I have yet to see any abnormal sequelæ. It is true reactions were severe in some cases, but it was just in those cases where the tissues were evidently not strong enough to cope with even an attenuated poison.

I am indebted to Dr. Elgin, Supervisor of the Biological Department of Mulford & Company for some valuable information in connection with the production of the modern vaccine, and also for his experiences in the laboratory of individual antagonism to the action of the virus. He tells me that it is a common thing for employees who are constantly subjected to inoculation to develop reactions several times in the same year, until finally as it were a point of saturation is reached when the individual no longer "takes". His experience also shows that the individual is rarely, if ever, always, at all times, immune from the action of vaccine virus, inasmuch as persons may be exposed to inoculation for months and not show reaction, but the time invariably comes when they develop the typical vaccinia.

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