

hygienic surroundings, it is absolutely essential that the operations of inoculating the animals and collecting and preserving the virus, should be carried out with the same elaborate precautions as to cleanliness and sterilization of the hands of the operator, the instruments and the parts to be operated upon, that the surgeon finds necessary in major operations or the bacteriologist in the making of cultures. This implies that the medical director of the vaccine institution and his assistants should be skilled bacteriologists and thoroughly familiar with modern surgical methods. Although this is, perhaps, the most important link in the chain, the same principles must be carried out in the distribution of the charged points, and the operation of vaccination itself. There is the gravest reason to fear that neither in the production of the lymph and the charging of the ivory points at the vaccine institutes, the distribution of the same through the health offices, nor in the hands of the majority of the physicians who vaccinate are these precautions observed as they should be. Happily, the rusty, unclean lancet has pretty generally disappeared from the physician's waistcoat pocket, and the ivory point alone is used to make the vaccination wound. Hence the necessity that it should be chemically clean and free from pathogenic bacteria, more especially pus cocci. Again, how many physicians take the trouble to cleanse the hands or wash the part before scarification, or give any instructions as to how the wound should be treated subsequently! We would respectfully suggest that the Provincial Board of Health, which enjoys the confidence of the profession in this province to a degree which is not equalled by any other of our provincial institutions, should take the necessary steps to see that the vaccine supplied from the Quebec vaccine "farm," as it is called, is produced with all necessary precautions and safeguards, and that it is distributed in such a way as to render contamination impossible, and finally that explicit instructions should be issued to every householder, and to every physician, explaining in detail the necessary steps in the operation and the reasons therefor. The verdict of the jury of physicians at the inquest upon the body of the child above referred to, stated