

in resorting to removal, irrespective of personal considerations. When a solitary case appears, surrounded by a crowded, uncleanly, unvaccinated and ignorant population, it is wise and proper to remove that case and whatever may follow it, as long as by so doing you can keep the neighborhood clear of infection. By following this rule during the last epidemic the northern, southern and south-eastern portions of the city were kept clear of the disease until sufficient time had been gained to allow the vaccinators to go over the whole community. After this had been done no further forcible removals were made, for the only circumstances that would justify them had ceased to exist. It is highly necessary that the authorities should have the power of forcible removal, but the useful and necessary power must not be employed indiscriminately or it will become, to the public, a source of danger instead of an instrument of safety. In all cases where people (after thoroughly understanding what the consequences will be) prefer to keep their relatives with them, it is both cruel and unwise to force them away, unless you feel satisfied that the disease will spread beyond the family if they remain, and disappear altogether from the neighborhood if they go.

I trust, gentlemen, that you will not consider these few remarks upon the function of small-pox hospitals misplaced or superfluous. Very different views from those which I have just been stating, found favor with the public last year. They were loudly pressed upon the authorities by some of the public prints, and claimed to be supported, to a certain extent, by medical opinion.

The measures which the Board of Health adopted for quarantining and disinfecting the infected houses have often been sneered at as inadequate. They are not perfectly protective, and, indeed, no human measure can be, yet they evidently produced some good effect. The district in which the disease first appeared, and to which it was kept chiefly confined, is bounded by Brunswick street and by portions of Erin and Brussels streets. It presents many obstacles to the enforcement of any kind of sanitary regulations, and contains, for its size, a good many inhabitants, very few of whom, at that time, either were vaccinated or wished to be. Up to the middle of March I kept finding unvaccinated people in it who had been living, week after week, within a very short distance of the infection, before it found an entrance into their houses. Notwithstanding all sorts of local furtherances, the disease, even in this infected district spread but very slowly from one house to another, and never became localized anywhere else, although solitary cases appeared at intervals in almost every part of the city. Clearly, McBurns, with his placards and fumigations,