

the Continent of Europe and in India. Jenner next suggested that the small-pox itself may have been originally morbid matter of the same mild kind, changed by accidental circumstances into that contagious and malignant form with which we are now too familiar. More recently it has been shown, by experiments, that the cow may be inoculated with the small-pox virus, and that by passing through the animal it is converted from small-pox into vaccine. Jenner next stated his conviction, and four years later, in his petition to Parliament, confidently announced, that the cow-pox, when it has once passed through the human body, renders through life the person inoculated with it perfectly secure from the infection of small-pox. How far from what time has proved to be the fact is this last sweeping assertion we all know. In his earliest statements Dr. Jenner led to the belief that the cow-pox in the cow was generally a local disorder confined to the udder. But more recent observations have shown that it is a constitutional febrile disease, accompanied with eruption, sometimes very severe and frequently fatal. The animals in severe cases, after appearing dull and stupid for a day or two, are seized with distressing cough, accumulation of phlegm in the mouth and fauces, and loss of appetite. On the fifth or sixth day pustules make their appearance all over the body, but especially on the abdomen, accompanied with much general distress and fever. The pustules go on to ulceration, the hair falling off wherever a pustule runs its course. The mouth and fauces in bad cases become one mass of ulceration, and mastication is so impeded that death seems to follow from inanition. An epizootic has been reported as occurring in India in which the mortality was estimated as being from 15 to 20 per cent

EVIDENCE IN FAVOR OF VACCINATION EXAMINED.

We have tolerably reliable statistics which show that there was a gradual increase in the proportion of deaths from small-pox in London, England, from about the year 1630 to 1765, or during a period of about 135 years. Since about the year 1765 down to about 1865, there was a gradual decline in the mortality from this disease. The rise and fall was not, of course, gradual, but subject to great fluctuations. The decline, it must be observed, commenced over a quarter of a century before vaccination was practiced, though the mortality appears to have fallen more rapidly after this. Figures, seemingly reliable, show that there has been, on the whole, a greatly reduced mortality from this disease during the present century as