

It is now two hundred and fourteen years since this cemetery was opened as a small-pox burial-ground, during the severe and fatal visitation of the disease in 1650, where, it appears, by an extract from *l'Histoire de l'Hotel-Dieu*, written by a nun,—that small-pox was so prevalent that the hospice wards could not contain all the cases, and a piece of ground adjoining it was fenced in with pickets, and bark huts erected within the enclosure to receive the sick Indians who were severe sufferers. Again the same authority says, in 1708 “*la facheuse picotte désola toute la Nouvelle-France. Il n’y avait point de maison épargné dans la ville. Ceux qui conservaient leur santé ne suffisaient pas pour soulager les malades. On portaient chaque jour des corps dans l’Eglise de la Basse-Ville ou dans la Cathédrale sans aucune cérémonie, et le soir les enterraient ensemble quelquefois jusqu’à quinze, seize et dix-huit.*” And she adds “*cela durait plusieurs mois, &c.*”

Recent experience has shewn us that specific infection may be dominant and innocuous for an inconceivably long space of time and then become developed, but as it is not my intention to discuss this point at present, I will leave every one free to draw his own conclusions from the facts above stated, and proceed to the consideration of another one connected with the subject of vaccination.

The circumstances above-mentioned have had the effect of giving an extraordinary impulse to the practice of vaccination and re-vaccination, the former of which has of late years been neglected, or has fallen into disuse in consequence of the extraordinary immunity from small-pox that has been enjoyed, and they have enabled me to make certain observations and deductions which may not be uninteresting nor entirely unprofitable to your medical or other readers.

I will premise by saying that I have met with nothing in my recent experience to shake my confidence in the practice of vaccination as a prophylactic against small-pox for a certain time, and among the adult cases, particularly of small-pox that have come under my observation, they had occurred where vaccination had been neglected and in some cases where inoculation had been practised. It is now an undisputed fact in medicine, that small-pox may occur more than once in the lifetime of the same person, and this coupled with the physiological fact that a constant change of substance is taking place in the animal tissues, justifies the practice that is becoming not uncommon of re-vaccination about every seventh year. With reference to this point, two principal circumstances ought to be attended to; firstly, the character of the virus; and secondly, its mode of application or introduction.

On the first point I am indebted for some valuable and interesting light from my esteemed friend and benefactor Dr. Morrin, who recently