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THE CENTENARY OF VACCINATION.¹

MAY 14TH, 1796.

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On May the 14th, 1796, Dr. Edward Jenner, of Berkeley, in the County of Gloucester, first inoculated a human being with matter taken from a vesicle of cow-pox. The inoculation so made developed into a well-marked pustule, the pustule with which now-a-days we are so well acquainted, and the inoculated individual was later found to be absolutely refractory to the inoculation of matter taken from a case of well-developed small-pox.

This successful experiment it was which inaugurated the practice now spread throughout the world, of vaccination against small-pox and led to the arrest of a foul disease so common during the last century that almost every other individual in Europe showed signs of its ravages, so rare now-a-days as to be extinct wherever vaccination and re-vaccination is rigorously enforced.

To-day, therefore, we celebrate the centenary of vaccination, and it is fitting that we, whose life-work is devoted to the combat with disease, should consecrate, even if it be but a few minutes, to calling into remembrance the great deeds which were of old, and should employ this occasion to look before and after, considering what has already been accomplished and what the future holds in store. For

¹ Lecture delivered before the post-graduate students, McGill University, May 14th, 1896.