

niable improvement of the situation during the last century, and the introduction of vaccination is indicated with no uncertainty.

If we are satisfied that vaccination has to any marked degree controlled smallpox as regards both the number and severity of cases, the second great objection to its use should vanish. The number of instances in which it can be shown that *serious* accidents of complications have occurred or that disastrous results have in any way been connected with vaccination as a cause, is infinitesimal when compared with the evils resulting from smallpox, where no protective vaccination is practised. The questions of causation and prevention of ill results to individuals from vaccination must, nevertheless, always be a highly important one to the physician. At the outset it may be stated that out of any large number of people who become infected with a disease, no matter how favorable a course it may usually run, some few on account of idiosyncrasy or deficient powers of natural resistance, will suffer much more than others. This is true of cowpox as of other diseases.

All complications may be divided into Unpreventable and Preventable.

The Unpreventable complications of vaccination are such as result from the inherent qualities of vaccinia together with peculiarities of individuals infected. Of these the majority take the form of abnormal skin eruptions and in very few instances are they at all serious. Pneumonia is a possible complication, but liable to occur only in very weak subjects who are otherwise unfavorably situated. Obviously, taking the ground we do, that vaccination is on the whole of great service to the community, in spite of all untoward circumstances which may happen in connexion with it, nothing is to be gained for our present purpose by further consideration of Unpreventable Complications.

*(To be continued.)*