

THE EVILS SOMETIMES FOLLOWING VACCINATION.

Now as to the evils which may and as we know do result directly from vaccination, I will be very brief and refer to only one fact. A Parliamentary return, Great Britain, 1880, gives the following statistics of deaths resulting from inoculable, and therefore vaccinal, diseases, for a period of about thirty years, just previous, comprising the period of compulsory vaccination:—The deaths from syphilis, of those under one year of age, had increased during that period, according to the return, from 564 to 1738, per million births—observe, having no relation to the population, or increase thereof; the deaths from skin diseases had increased from 183 to 343; from scrofula, from 351 to 908; and from mesenteric disease, from 2981 to 4373. We do not know that the great increase in the proportion of deaths from these causes was the consequence of vaccination, any more than we know that vaccination will prevent small-pox. We have the facts and can only draw our own inferences. I will but just allude to the possibility that, in view of the contagiousness of tubercular disease and its frequency in the cow, vaccination with animal virus may prove as dangerous as arm to arm vaccination.

VALUE OF ISOLATION, QUARANTINE AND DISINFECTION.

Before concluding, I desire to draw attention to preventive measures, other than vaccination, for the suppression of outbreaks of small-pox. As an illustration of their value and practicability, I shall refer to their application in one city, only. In Leicester, England, a city of about 130,000 inhabitants, an experiment of a most valuable and interesting character for the limitation and stamping out of this disease has been tried and with the greatest success. Leicester is said to be the worst vaccinated city in the kingdom. In 1880-81 the number of children vaccinated did not much exceed half the number of births, and there have been there more prosecutions for breaches of the Compulsory Vaccination Acts than in all the other large cities of the kingdom put together. During the first six months of last year there were 29 cases of small-pox admitted into the small-pox hospital, representing 19 distinct importations or outbreaks of the disease. Many of these outbreaks were at the lowest lodging houses, where under ordinary conditions the disease would be most likely to spread. The practice of compulsory notification to the health authorities of cases of infectious diseases is carried out there, and each case, immediately on being known, was promptly reported, and health officers at once visited the premises