

necessary to tell you how unbecoming your clothes are or how fat you are getting. She takes a keen interest in the higher education and the uplifting of the masses, and she is also an enthusiast on the subject of gloves. She looks well to the ways of her household, but she doesn't bother about other people's. She—"

"Well, I don't see that you are describing any one so very different from Mrs. Wysely," interrupted Priscilla. "She's all those things, and more, too,"

"You didn't hear me out, Pris," said Nancy, smilingly. "There's one respect in which my ideal differs from yours Mrs. Wysely."

"What's that? I suppose your ideal would never commit the indiscretion of matrimony?" jeered Priscilla.

"No, it isn't that," Nancy, with an angelic smile of forgiveness for the gibe. "But my ideal never committed the indiscretion of living at all. See? Come in and help me make the cakes for tea."

SOME NUTS FOR MR. GREIG TO CRACK.

To the Editor of THE HOME JOURNAL:

SIR—In reply to a letter appearing in a weekly paper in this city, signed by Mr. Wm. Greig, I wish to lay the following facts, taken from the *British Medical Journal*, the acknowledged leading medical paper of Great Britain, before the public, and, in addition to these, I will also give a few paragraphs from the report made by the Royal Commission, held on the smallpox epidemic of 1892 in this city. The *Medical Journal* gives the following statistics concerning the protection afforded by vaccination.

Birmingham.—Some striking facts have come to light as to the part played by vaccination in relation to smallpox at Birmingham last year. From January 1, 1893, to January 31, 1894, there were 1,203 cases of smallpox in that city, 96 being fatal, or 8 per cent. of attacks. This percentage was made up of four as regards vaccinated cases, and 36 as regards unvaccinated cases. Moreover, no vaccinated child under the age of three years contracted smallpox, whilst not only did 35 children of such years catch the disease, but as many as 20 died of it, this being a per-case mortality of 57.1 per cent. No person revaccinated during the epidemic has contracted smallpox. This experience is precisely similar to those already reported by us from Leicester, Aston Manor, Salford, Warrington and elsewhere; and in this connection it seems desirable to record here in the briefest possible manner the main facts which have come to light in several towns where smallpox has prevailed in 1892-93, and for which the data have been collected and published in the *British Medical Journal*. But before passing on we desire to draw attention to another item of news from Birmingham, one which has reference to the recent experience of the nurses at the workhouse and the workhouse infirmary. These two institutions are contiguous to the city smallpox hospital, and the guardians therefore deemed it prudent, on the recent outbreak of the small-pox epidemic, to have the nurses vaccinated. Two of the nurses—one in the workhouse and

one in the workhouse infirmary—refused to submit to the operation. The one in the workhouse caught the disease, and died about two months ago. The one in the workhouse infirmary was also seized, and her case ended fatally a month back. None of the nurses who were vaccinated have been affected. Treating now the facts elicited from various smallpox invaded towns, we give a summary of ten others as follows:

Leicester.—Of 146 cases of smallpox dealt with by the health officer in his report on the outbreak of 1892-93 there were 10 which proved fatal, a per-case rate of 6.8 per cent. Of 89 vaccinated patients, 1 died, or 1.1 per cent., whilst of 57 unvaccinated persons attacked 9 died, or 15.8 per cent. Under the age of 10 years there were 7 cases in vaccinated children, not one being fatal; but of 50 in unvaccinated children 8 were fatal, a rate of 16 per cent. And further, whilst only 7 per cent. of attacks among vaccinated persons were of children aged 10 years and under, as many as 88 per cent. of the unvaccinated cases were so aged.

Brighouse.—The health officer of Brighouse reported 134 cases in 1892, of which 15 died, a per-case rate of 11.2 per cent., made up of 103 vaccinated patients, 6 dying, a rate of 5.8 per cent., and of 24 unvaccinated patients, 9 being fatally attacked, a rate of 37.5 per cent. There were 7 attacks of revaccinated persons, but all ended in recovery. Under the age of ten years 6 cases were of vaccinated children, all recovering, while 19 were of unvaccinated children, 7 dying, or a rate of 37.0 per cent. of attacks.

Manchester.—Data kindly furnished by Dr. Tatham for 1892-93 related to 406 cases of smallpox, 27 proving fatal, or at the rate of 6.7 per cent. Of these 335 were of vaccinated persons, and 14 died, or 4.18 per cent.; and 42 were of unvaccinated persons, of whom 8 died, or 19.05 per cent. Under 10 years of age 4 vaccinated children were attacked, and all recovered; and 19 unvaccinated children were attacked, 3, or 16 per cent., dying. Only one revaccinated person was attacked, and that 37 years after the operation.

Salford.—Dr. Paget's recent report shows that of 173 cases of smallpox 22 proved fatal, a mortality of 12.7 per cent. Vaccinated persons furnished 132 cases and 9 deaths, a death rate of 6.8 per cent.; and unvaccinated persons 35 cases, with 12, or 34.3 per cent., fatal. Under 10 years of age vaccinated children contributed 7 cases and no deaths, and unvaccinated children 20 cases and 7 deaths, a mortality rate of 35.0 per cent. of attacks.

Glasgow.—Dr. Russell's very exact data, kindly sent to us last year, comprised 279 cases of smallpox, 23 of which were fatal, a rate of 8.2 per cent.; and of these 248 were in vaccinated persons, 11, or 4.4 per cent., dying; whilst 11 were of unvaccinated persons, as many as 7 being fatal, or 63.6 per cent. of attacks. Under 10 years of age vaccinated children attacked numbered 10, and all recovered; whilst both of 2 unvaccinated children died. Only 2 revaccinated persons were attacked, and both recovered, not one case being among the hospital staff of 35 persons.

Liverpool.—In Liverpool there were 194 cases of smallpox in 1892, 15 proving fatal, 7.7 per cent. of attacks; 170 cases were in vaccinated persons, 6 were fatal,

3.5 per cent.; and 24 were in unvaccinated persons, of which 9 were fatal, a percentage of 37.5 of attacks. Under 10 years of age one death occurred in 7 cases in vaccinated children, or 14.4 per cent., and 5 deaths in 11 unvaccinated children, or 45.5 per cent. Of the total vaccinated cases 15.9 per cent. were confluent, whilst as many as 58.3 per cent. of unvaccinated cases were of that nature.

Halifax.—Dr. Ainley's capital report on the smallpox epidemic of 1892-93 gives 512 as the total of cases, 44 as fatal, or 8.5 per cent. of attacks. Vaccinated cases numbered 425, and deaths among these 8, or 1.8 per cent. Unvaccinated cases numbered 88, with 36, or 40.9 per cent., fatal. Under 10 years of age, 4 cases in vaccinated children all ended in recovery; while of 67 in unvaccinated children, 22 died, or 32.1 per cent. Moreover 76 per cent. of the whole number of cases were of children under 10 years of age, only 1 per cent. being of vaccinated children; and whereas the attacks among vaccinated persons furnished confluent cases to an extent of only 9 per cent. of the whole, those among unvaccinated persons furnished 60 per cent. of a like character.

Warrington.—The Warrington smallpox epidemic of 1892-93 comprised 598 cases, and 60 were fatal, or 10 per cent. Vaccinated attacks were 530 in number, with 32 deaths, or 5.0 per cent.; and unvaccinated cases 68 with 28, or 41.0 per cent., fatal. Under 10 years of age, 24 vaccinated children all recovered from attack; whilst out of 33 unvaccinated children attacked 14, or 42.4 died. Not one case occurred among the police force or postmen, all of whom were revaccinated; nor among the hospital staff of 23 revaccinated persons.

Aston Manor.—In 1893 there were 113 cases of smallpox here, with 6 deaths, or 5.3 per cent. There were 97 cases in vaccinated persons, and only 1 death; the remaining 5 deaths occurring among 15 unvaccinated persons, or 33.3 per cent. No fatality took place among persons having three or more vaccination marks, and no revaccinated person is known to have been attacked.

St. Albans.—In his annual report for 1893, which we have not previously referred to, the health officer records 58 cases of smallpox, with 6, or 10.4 per cent., fatal. There were 48 vaccinated cases, with 2 deaths, or 4.1 per cent., against 10 unvaccinated cases, of which 4, or 40.0 per cent., proved fatal. Vaccinated cases were severe in 22 per cent., and unvaccinated cases in 88 per cent., of attacks, the severe vaccinated cases being nearly all in persons possessing indistinct scars. No case occurred in a revaccinated person.

Surely the foregoing furnish such facts as need no comment; and so we will close with the following deductions, namely, (1) had the 374 unvaccinated patients died only at the rate of those vaccinated, they would have furnished, not 127, but only 5 deaths; (2) had the 2,177 vaccinated patients died at the rate of those unvaccinated, they would have furnished, not the actual 90, but as many as 738 deaths.

In addition to the foregoing from the *Medical Journal*, I might draw conclusions a little more lucid for the ordinary public: 1st. Vaccination in adults done