

vaccination, but rather as one who, in view of the many evils reported to have followed it, and other possible evils just referred to, has become somewhat sceptical and critical, and who would most carefully and fully, and in every light, examine all evidence relating thereto, favorable or otherwise.

It is difficult, on first view, to believe, from the statistics which have been brought forward by those who are favorable to it, that it has not in the past, with less perfect knowledge of the value of other sanitary measures, been of value, a necessary precaution, and a preventive of the spread of, and mortality from, this most loathsome disease, small-pox; and it is just possible that it will be best to continue it, for some time to come, at least. But I desire to say here at the outset that, after carefully examining and sifting all the obtainable evidence, *pro* and *con*, in regard to the measure, I fear that it has been and is too much extolled, and too much relied upon, to the comparative neglect of other, and, it appears me, more strictly scientific preventive measures, and that it is opposed and repulsive to nature. It is said that figures cannot and do not lie, but unquestionably they may, if they are not carefully weighed and investigated in all their relations and bearings, greatly mislead.

I propose, therefore, to bring forward the strongest evidence that has been advanced on behalf of the practice of vaccination as a preventive of small-pox, and to examine its value so far as space and time will permit; then to notice, very briefly, some of the evils which have been the consequence of the practice; and, finally, the methods of checking the progress of small-pox without vaccination. Before proceeding to this, however, I desire to draw attention to a few points relating to the history of vaccination which will be of interest, and which will bear more or less strongly upon the evidence.

In the original essay of Dr. Jenner, published in 1798, entitled, "An Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a Disease discovered in some of the Western Counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of Cow-pox," the author gives it as his belief that the disorder does not originate with the cow, but is communicated to that animal from the horse, where it appears on the heels, and is known by the name of *the grease*. Later observations have established the identity of the two disorders, cow-pox and grease, and equination (the communication of the disease from the horse direct to man) has been practised on