

deal of time and study to the subject of vaccination ; and adduced a vast quantity of figures in support of his propositions, which were chiefly that (1) vaccinia is in no degree a protection against small-pox, but rather predisposes to the disease ; (2) the Austrian statistics show that the mortality per cent. in vaccinated cases is nearly double that of the unvaccinated ; (3) small-pox in the eighteenth century was not usually fatal, nor an object of dread, except among infants ; it was in fact a merely infantile disorder ; (4) vaccinia in itself was a highly dangerous disease, though perhaps not so immediately fatal as small-pox, but with a high probability of conveying into the vaccinated persons various deadly poisons : erysipelas, syphilitic, and scorbutic disorders, consumption, etc., more to be dreaded than small-pox itself.

These propositions are so utterly contrary to all the accepted ideas of educated persons, and to all common knowledge, that we examined a little into the tables and figures adduced. But we found that they were all (with one exception) merely one-sided, extracted, or constructed, in order to support a foregone conclusion (though we are quite sure that Mr. Greig did not think so, and, in fact, that it would be impossible to persuade him to that effect) and utterly unworthy of any reliance.

The extreme and unjust vehemence of the anti-vaccinationist mind may be perceived by the degrading prejudice exhibited against the entire medical profession by Mr. Greig, who we are quite convinced would be most fair and temperate upon any other topic. As to all public vaccinators in England, he over and over again referred to the necessary bias in their minds by reason of the fee (3 shillings). And he greatly preferred private vaccinators, because, he insinuated, any of them might, to please the parents, vaccinate the infant with milk instead of vaccine lymph and then gave a vaccination certificate. And although repeatedly pressed, whether he really and seriously thought that the latter would be guilty of such a fraud, or that the former would be willing to out-Herod Herod by poisoning innocent infants at six bits a head, he still smilingly adhered to his views : that if these motives were not always put in practice, they were always present : nor was it possible to make him perceive that he was ascribing the basest conduct to the entire muster-roll of the profession :

since doctors who are public vaccinators, and doctors who are not, necessarily exhaust the whole category.

In our opinion, though vaccination is not infallible—probably there is no infallible remedy or prophylactic against any disorder in the world—yet it is so potent that, if universally adopted, small-pox might be eliminated from the nomenclature of existing diseases. The evidence of Mr. Kito, the Japanese Consul at Vancouver city, is valuable as illustrating the high degree of appreciative intelligence possessed by his fellow countrymen.

We think that vaccination should be compulsory on all children before attaining the age of three months, followed by re-vaccination at the age of puberty.

To insure the due performance of the operation, we recommend the appointment of public vaccinators by Government, who alone should be authorized to issue certificates of successful vaccination, of insusceptibility, and of unfitness for submitting to the operation. They should keep a register of all cases and results, and be subject to a supervision of a superior officer.

When the disease is prevalent, or threatens to become so, extra provision should be made for vaccination and re-vaccination, and the routes of travel should be properly guarded to prevent the departure from an infected place of any person capable of carrying the infection elsewhere.

But these and all other measures of a like nature are best left to the discretion of a Provincial Health Officer, who should, we think, be appointed by the Government and responsible to the Executive : and to whom all health officers should report on any matters connected with disease or sanitation as he may from time to time specify.

We strongly recommend that the various municipalities should, so soon as such officer is appointed, be deprived of the right to legislate in any way upon matters relating to the public health, but that to ensure uniformity these should be regulated either by Parliament, or by the Provincial Health Officer, so far as Parliament may think fit ; and that the several municipalities should be confined to administrative powers only. And in this view we suggest that the entire Province be mapped out into health districts as large as may be, with a health officer in each, to whom