

value of vaccination is widely spread, and the opposition to it crops up in many quarters, and often where least expected.

The following appeared in the press of 14th January :

"Ottawa is in the grip of one of the most serious smallpox epidemics in its history, and the disease, which all year has been confined to certain sections, is now prevalent all over the city. Dr. T. A. Lomer, Medical Officer of Health, states the outbreak is beyond control, and that drastic preventive steps must be taken to safeguard lives. The Board of Health officials have been working day and night, the Hopewell Hospital is filled to capacity, and cases are being treated in their homes.

"It is stated that nearly 100 cases are being treated. According to reports published to-day, the Hopewell Hospital is filled and medical treatment is being given to fourteen patients in their homes. There are eighty-three Ottawa homes under smallpox quarantine.

"The type is severe, but owing to prompt medical treatment, not deadly. Only one case of "black pox" has been reported to the authorities and the victim died.

"Mayor Plant and Controller Ellis have affirmed their intention of going to jail before bowing to a general vaccination order, if the 1921 Board of Health, which will be appointed Monday, recommends such a course to City Council. The general vaccination order has been requested by Dr. T. A. Lomer, civil Medical Officer of Health. Controller Cameron, Labor, also opposed the order."

This reads very much like what appeared in the press about Toronto a little more than a year ago. There is a very great deal of sickness and suffering with loss of time even though no deaths occur. Then there is all the loss of business that a large city must experience with a small-pox epidemic on its hands. One of the difficulties in dealing with small-pox of recent years is the fact that it has been of such a benign character. If it should assume for a few weeks a malignant or deadly type there would be a rush to the vaccination stations and many of those now opposing vaccination would be crying loudly for protection, and blaming the medical profession for the loss of life.

It is going to take a severe lesson to bring the people to their senses in this matter; and we do not hesitate to state that it is bound to come. In spite of the fact that there are many immune persons from efficient vaccination, and many who are partially immune from an inadequate vaccination, there will come along some day a very severe form of the disease which will slay its thousands, and mark for life its tens of thousands. Then will be realized who has always been in the right.