

logical creed to which I hold. A century has almost passed away since Jenner in 1798 first published his discovery, and the medical profession is seen engaged in considering the imperfections of our present means of defence against small-pox. It is seen that the general principle already announced, that "the invasion of a contagious disease is protection against subsequent attacks of the same disease," is quite correct, yet that from some imperfection in the application of the prophylactic, or from some peculiar idiosyncrasies of the system in individuals, secondary attacks of small-pox do occur, and attacks of small-pox subsequent to vaccination are very uncomfortably frequent. This latter has led to the supposition that *vaccination* gradually loses its protective influence over the system, hence as a remedy, re-vaccination has been wisely recommended. Instead, however, of going back to the position of admitting the imperfection of the principle upon which the practice is based, namely, the fact that "it has been found impossible to infect with small-pox virus persons who have spontaneously contracted the vaccinia disease upon their hands in milking, or who have been artificially impregnated with the vaccine virus of the cow or horse;" the question has occurred to my mind whether, as "a thing half done is never done," and that "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well," it would not be better to use every means to render our practice of vaccination *perfect*, and in this way confer a degree of protection commensurate with the exigencies of the case and in proportion to the confidence placed in it. It is hardly necessary for me to say that I am an implicit believer in the perfect protection afforded by *perfect vaccination*." I may quote the much respected and worthy Dean of McGill College, Dr. Campbell, as entertaining the same view. His statement to me was in these words: "I have been vaccinating for over forty years, and I have never had an accident; and I have yet to learn of a single person whom I have vaccinated having taken small-pox afterwards." Also Dr. Trudel, the worthy Dean of Victoria College, said to me: "I have been using the stock of vaccine which I possess for the last forty years, and I have never had an accident of any kind; nor am I aware of an individual having taken small-pox whom I had vaccinated. I collect and preserve my own vaccine." What original source this lymph is from I have been unable to ascertain.

The experience just narrated of Drs. Campbell and Trudel, show, in my opinion, what results may be

expected from properly performed vaccination, with carefully selected virus.

If we go back to the original statements of Dr. Jenner, in 1798, we may find a clue to many of the defects which have been observed to result from vaccination since his time. In my researches of the literature on the subject, which is most voluminous, I find the earliest notice of the *cow-pox*, and its supposed powers in preventing the infection of small-pox, was found by Mr. Steinbeck to exist in a periodical work published at Gottingen in the year 1769. By this it appears the people of that country who had received the cow-pox, flattered themselves, that thereby they were secured against the infection of small-pox—a circumstance that does not appear to have arrested the attention of the physicians of Germany. It has also been asserted by a Dr. Barry of Cork that the cow-pox has been known in Ireland from time immemorial; and in the neighborhood of Cork it has been called *shinach*, a term belonging to the ancient language of the country, which has been applied to the disease as far back as oral testimony can be carried.

The COW-POX DISEASE,—which the weight of evidence, including numerous experiments and observations, goes to prove is identical with and only a modified form of small-pox—appears to have been familiar to the rural population of most counties in England long prior to Jenner's first experiments with it, particularly in Dorsetshire and Gloucestershire. And there, as from my own personal knowledge among the rural populations of Ontario, my native Province of Canada, the people reposed the fullest confidence, in the *presumption*, that those who had been spontaneously or accidentally affected with cow-pox, were thereby rendered proof against any future attack of small-pox.

I find a statement on record, also, to the effect that twenty years previous to Jenner's experiments, one Benjamin Jesty, of Downshay, Dorsetshire, had made the experiment of vaccination upon his wife and two sons with virus from a cow affected with cow-pox, in 1774. This record is taken from a memorial tablet of the gentleman, who was a layman, in the churchyard of the village of Worth, which, among other things, states that he was "particularly noted for having been the first known person that had introduced the cow-pox by inoculation." The *vox populi* in this matter seems to have been taken by Jenner, (then resident at Berkley in Gloucestershire) to have been the *vox Dei*, as it has often been in other things, and, catching the inspiration, he was led to make