

cautions, when suddenly the reaper starts to gather his harvest of the unvaccinated and an epidemic results. In Warrington, Eng., one of the places where vaccination has not been enforced, there were four hundred cases at one time. Then the inhabitants awoke to the necessity of vaccination, and, as a result of the systematic performance of this operation, in one week the number of new cases fell from seventy-six to twenty-nine, and in the following week to little more than one a day. It cost Warrington at least five thousand pounds to learn this lesson, and probably the increase in the taxes will impress the fact upon the minds of the inhabitants.

This is only one instance out of many to show the necessity of preparation for war in time of peace. For some time an enquiry has been going on in Great Britain before a Royal Commission as to the efficacy of vaccination, and in many cases the authorities responsible for the enforcement of the law regarding vaccination have allowed it to lapse, on the pretext that during the sitting of the Commission the law ought to be suspended. The result is as might have been foreseen.

With small-pox all about us it behooves our own Board of Health to see that all are efficiently protected, as it is much easier to keep the enemy out than to fight him once he has gained an entrance.

KISSING THE BOOK.

In England the law has been altered relative to the practice of administering oaths in certain cases. It is no longer necessary to "kiss the Book," but the oath may be administered without this formality, each person raising his right hand while being sworn. This was done recently in Middlesex by the coroner, Dr. W. B. Gordon Hogg, and is a proceeding to be greatly commended. We have lively remembrances of our own coroner with his white locks and his Bible, the covers of which are not white and which have to be held in place by a rubber band. We were told to take the book in our right hand, and we did it reluctantly, a set of words is rapidly said, ending with the formula