

Anyone who is desirous of looking into the matter will see in the first volume of the Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, dealing with investigations made in England in the years 1889-97, a statement both most impartial and convincing. It needs no proof that the members of this Commission were men entirely above suspicion as to motive and of the highest scientific standing.

On the general question as to the protective power of vaccination we may condense the results of the Commission's inquiry as follows:

That the death rate in smallpox is much higher among the unvaccinated than the vaccinated and that there is "less liability to smallpox among the vaccinated than the unvaccinated." To the latter statement is added the statement that "the protection enjoyed by vaccinated children under ten years of age is greatly in excess of that enjoyed at a more advanced period of life."

Lastly, it is concluded that the disease, smallpox, is likely to be less severe in type when occurring in the vaccinated than when in the unvaccinated.

These statements are made so moderately and after so careful and detailed an examination of information from all sources that one could hardly credit disbelief to anyone but a Christian Scientist. Further, we find great support for the Protective theory in the facts that all the principal Governments of Europe have demonstrated their faith in it by making vaccination compulsory in their armies; that Germany, with compulsory vaccination of both infants and school children since 1874, has abolished smallpox epidemics from the country, and that the introduction of compulsory vaccination into Italy in 1888 made an immediate diminution in smallpox mortality. In Prussia vaccination was made compulsory in 1874. Previous to that time the mean death rate from smallpox per 1,000,000 persons was 309 yearly; since 1874 it has been 15 per 1,000,000 and for the last ten years 7 per 1,000,000.

Much more of the same sort of evidence has been accumulated but it would be useless to multiply instances in a paper such as this.

Then when we consider that smallpox was the most persistent and fatal disease of the eighteenth and some previous centuries, we must look for an adequate explanation of the change.

Making all due allowance for the effect of police and sanitary measures, it is impossible to believe that they alone have so essentially modified the situation. We have already stated that there is no proof whatever of the so-called cosmic influences which are supposed by some to regulate outbreaks. We are forced then to look for some other explanation of the unde-