

only known specific treatment. Further, Dr. Wilson states "that in not one case was the wound properly cared for throughout the course of the vaccinia. In nearly all the shield was used persistently, and I can personally answer that in at least one case its influence increased the local inflammation, if by replacing the proper dressing it did not actually transmit the tetanus germ." In the two Philadelphia cases the patients were the children of stablemen and, as is well-known, the tetanus bacillus is found to flourish more abundantly in the soil and dust about stables, so that there is in these cases at least a common source of infection. To most inquirers the evidence brought forward will be quite sufficient to exclude from their minds the possibility of the tetanus infection being inoculated with the virus. When we add to this, the statements quoted above by Dr. Wilson, that in no case was the wound properly cared for during the course of vaccinia, we will note the very great possibility of such wounds being subject to secondary infection from scratching, etc. As an additional point large numbers of vaccine points and tubes, bought in open market, have been submitted to bacteriological examination and in no case yet have tetanus bacillus been demonstrated in the virus.

The Canadian case quoted in the newspapers followed very much the same course as the other cases and the physician in charge is quoted as saying that there was no causal connection between the virus and the tetanus.

The physician then must recognize certain points in connection with vaccination:

1st. Vaccination must be regarded as an operation and like any operation must be done aseptically (not antiseptically).

2nd. That the operation produces a *wound* which must be cared for like any other wound, that is, should have proper dressing; discharges should not be retained and permitted to putrefy or lay open the way for secondary infection with the common pus micrococci, the tetanus bacillus and such ilk.

3rd. The vaccination shield is not only a snare and delusion but may be a source of serious danger in ways which it is not necessary to further mention.