

world. Here and there, as might be expected, it has met with opposition; but every objection that has been urged by the anti-vaccinator has been answered again and again by the leading minds of the profession. So much is this the case that I feel I owe something like an apology to my medical brethren for writing affirmatively of a practice most of them endorse. I spoke a moment ago of Jenner as a discoverer; but Jenner did not discover vaccine any more than Watt discovered steam. He noticed the prevalent belief among the peasantry in the immunity from small pox enjoyed by farm servants and milk maids; and little by little he drew the conclusion which has been so pregnant with benefit to mankind. The belief in the existence of a vaccine virus was not confined to England. Cow-pox and its relations to small-pox had been noticed long before on the continent of Europe; and in France and Germany numerous experiments had been made prior to the time of Jenner to show that persons affected by the natural vaccine virus were not susceptible to the small-pox influence. Jenner's merit consisted chiefly in *producing* the virus at will, and in diffusing it at pleasure for our advantage. And how slowly and how cautiously he advanced his every statement may be gathered from the fact that twenty-two years elapsed between his first experiment and the promulgation of his theory. He was assailed then, as his memory is to-day, but with more excuse then than now, for no one having the leisure and the disposition to read, and having access to the records of medical observers, has now the shadow of an excuse for rejecting the theory then advanced, the critical acuteness of which, says Curchmann, may serve as a model. But we do things differently now-a-days, and a harangue in a market place or public square, by gentlemen who may, 'tis true, be authorities in law, but cannot be accepted as such in medicine, is deemed sufficient to initiate the uneducated masses into a knowledge of one of the most difficult and abstruse subjects in the whole range of medical science. I shall not allude to the members of my own profession who have chosen to so far forget what is due to their own dignity and the dignity of their calling as to select such an arena for the dis-