

the conclusion is irresistibly forced on our minds, that if it were possible to have every individual in a community properly vaccinated, small pox would soon be a disease of extreme rarity, if it did not disappear entirely from such community. In further substantiation of this, we have the facts embodied in a paper, "*On the protection against small pox afforded by vaccination, illustrated by the returns of the Army, Navy, and Royal Military Asylum,*" recently brought before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of England, by Dr. Balfour. According to this gentleman's statistics, it appears that in eight years, from 1844 to 1851, out of a total number of 1,125,854 soldiers, only 745 cases of small pox occurred, or 66 to every 100,000 men; while among 363,370 sailors, there were 417 cases of small pox, or 115 in every 100,000 men. The deaths from small pox have been only 130 in nearly 1,500,000 men. When it is considered that soldiers and sailors must be frequently in parts of the world where small pox prevails extensively, these statements speak loudly in favor of the protective influence of vaccination. It is, therefore, a wise and humane act on the part of the Imperial Legislature, to oblige, under penalty, every individual in Great Britain and Ireland to undergo vaccination. By so doing, they adopt the most certain plan of entirely eradicating small pox.

We have no hesitation in asserting, in the light of the foregoing facts, that it is the manifest duty of the Legislature of every country, showing a ratio of 10 deaths from small pox to every 1000 deaths from all diseases, to protect the citizens, in like manner, from this loathsome and fatal disease. In estimating the merits of this question, more should be taken into consideration than the immediate mortality of, and alteration of features left by, the disease. From its usually attacking persons while they are in the state of infancy or childhood, before the processes of growth and development have proceeded to any extent, those who recover are left in a condition not at all favorable to the production of robust, healthy manhood. The whole mass of blood has been poisoned, and the system has received a shock from which it seldom completely recovers. Infirmary of constitution, and consequent liability to various diseases, is entailed upon the individual for life. Nor is it physical perfection alone that is interfered with. The retarding and deteriorating influences which date their origin from an attack of small pox, are quite as inimical to mental as to bodily development.

There are few countries where compulsory measures, to ensure general vaccination, are more imperatively demanded than in our own. Small pox is constantly in our midst. Sometimes occurring sporadically; at other times, as during the last winter, prevailing epidemically. In Lower Canada, of which we speak more particularly, the same prejudice appears to exist among our Franco-Canadian countrymen against vaccina-