

EXTRA SHEET.

◇ MEDICAL CRITICISM. ◇

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TESTIMONY RELATING TO VACCINATION.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.—Since the passage of the original Compulsory Vaccination Act in England, there have been three epidemics, with the following results:—

1st.—1857-59, there were 12,244 deaths.

2nd.—1863-65, there were 20,059 deaths.

3rd.—1870-72, there were 44,840 deaths.

Allowing for increase of population at 7 per cent. from the first to the second epidemic, there is an increase of small-pox in the same period of 44 per cent.; and allowing for an increase of population between the second and third epidemics of 10 per cent., there is shown an increase of small-pox of 120 per cent.!! In this remarkable fashion has the Jennerian nostrum stamped out small-pox.

W. J. COLLINS, M.D., London.—After occupying the position of Public Vaccinator for twenty years in one of the most populous metropolitan parishes, and having devoted twenty-five years to close study of the question, I have relinquished the practice of vaccination, with its emoluments, on the ground, that while it afforded no protection against the small-pox, it was the frequent cause of dangerous and fatal diseases; and my investigations into and experience of calf-lymph or bovine vaccination (advocated by Dr. H. A. Martin, of Boston, U.S., and Dr. Warlomont, of Brussels), has only confirmed my opinion on both these issues.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.—I regard compulsory and penal provisions, such as those of the Vaccination Act, with mistrust and misgiving, and were I engaged on an inquiry, I should require very clear proof of their necessity before giving them my approval.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.—The law which inflicts penalty after penalty on a parent who is unwilling to have his child vaccinated is monstrous, and ought to be repealed.

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.—Every one who knows anything of public-health questions, and the practical unity of epidemics and their determining causes, will agree that exemption from all alike must be sought, not by any one thing, such as vaccination, but by removing the causes of epidemic-susceptibility generally.

“LANCET,” (June 22nd, 1878).—The notion that animal lymph would be free from chances of syphilitic contamination is so fallacious, that we are surprised to see Dr. Martin (of Boston, U. S.) reproducing it.