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SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.*

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The following are simple remarks on a subject which is at the present time of lively interest to us, and which I desire to study with you.

For over a year smallpox has existed in our community and if we do not have recourse to vaccination, which is the only efficient means of fighting this dreadful disease, it will surely last for a good while yet. In the country, people, as a rule, are not vaccinated, nor do they isolate patients or disinfect houses. And what will be the result? As long as such a state of things exists, we shall have smallpox, and country places will infect cities.

We have to go back as far as the seventh century to find the first cases of smallpox mentioned in the history of medicine, but in the sixteenth century we find that this disease had spread everywhere, and, from that time until now, notwithstanding the efforts made by health authorities to stop the progress of variola, the number of its victims has been exceedingly great. This disease is generally manifested in an epidemic form and it is as such that it has caused the greatest ravages, especially among nations not protected by vaccination.

Variola is a disease having the following characteristics: It is eruptive, febrile and essentially contagious. As a rule persons do not contract smallpox more than once, although we have seen individuals who have had it many times. It can be transmitted from the sick man to the healthy in either of two ways; directly or indirectly. The liquid or pus that comes from the pustules, when put in contact with

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