

cow pox, and with it the security from small pox, first from the cow to the human body, and thence from one person to another. In 1780 he carried drawing of the casual disease, as seen on the hands of milkers, to London, and showed it to John Hunter, Cline and others; but still none would either assist or encourage him, scepticism or ridicule met him everywhere, and it was not until 1796 that he made the decisive experiment. On the 14th of May (a day still commemorated by an annual festival at Berlin) a boy aged eight years was vaccinated with matter taken from the hands of a milk maid; he passed through the disorder in a satisfactory manner, and was inoculated for small pox on the 1st of July following without the slightest effect. Dr. Jenner then entered on an extensive series of experiments of the same kind, and in 1798 published his first memoir: "An enquiry into the causes and effects of Variolæ Vaccinæ." It excited the greatest interest, for the evidence in it seemed conclusive; yet the practise met with great opposition, and its success seemed uncertain till a year had passed, when upwards of seventy of the principal physicians and surgeons in London signed a declaration of their entire confidence in it—[see Baron's life of Jenner.] The history of the different epidemics of small pox shows the mortality to be one in four of those attacked who have not been vaccinated, whilst of those who had undergone vaccination the proportion was not one in 450. With such wonderful results it is not a little surprising that indifference to vaccination, and occasionally open hostility, as recently evidenced by some physicians of Montreal, should yet have to be met, and it would be a great boon to the public if our Provincial or Dominion Legislature would pass an Act rendering vaccination absolutely compulsory. The Act of the Session before last, if not entirely inoperative, is clearly not equal to the occasion, as systematic Government inspection was not made a provision in the Bill.

Dr. Aitken, in his work on the Practice of Medicine, thus speaks on the subject:

"The present position of our knowledge regarding vaccina-