

INTRODUCTION.

Vaccination should not be compulsory any more than any other medical or surgical measure, and if the following pages assist in restoring to the people the liberty filched from them by the usurped authority of Parliament, much good will be done.

What is inherently wrong can not be made right by Act of Parliament, and to men of plain common sense it does not seem right that any disease should be implanted by legislative mandate.

Dr. J. J. Garth Wilkinson says: "I am not a jurist, but I know by heart that there are rights of the person which precede and tower over the Church and the State; and that the Parliament which breaks them is out of all law, and openly invokes on both sides might against right; and in so far proclaims the dissolution of society."

Dr. Stuart Close, in the *Medical Advance* for November, 1903, says: "With the legitimate application of the police power of the State for the protection of the public health by wise and humane sanitary measures; with its sanitary regulation and control of epidemics and of contagious diseases, and with its care and control of the criminal, insane and pauper classes we have no controversy. But when the power is prostituted to base, selfish and unworthy ends; when its minions invade the domain of private medical opinion and practice and attempt to coerce the public into acceptance of obnoxious and pernicious medical theories; when it forces on protesting citizens medical measures that destroy health and cause disease, physical degeneration and death, and when, in doing all this, it tyrannically violates constitutional rights of person and property, we think it time to rebel."

The horrors of smallpox are painted in lurid colors in pro-vaccinist controversial literature, but the experience in Ontario of the last ten years shows it to be the mildest of diseases. From 1900 to 1904, inclusive, there were 5,765 cases with 51 deaths; giving a death rate of less than one per cent. The worst case of pitting after smallpox which I have ever seen is that of a Toronto lady, who was vaccinated so effectively at the age of two years that she bears the marks to this day, and at the age of five years was attacked with smallpox of a severe type, together with four other members of the family, all well vaccinated.

A Parkdale child, unvaccinated, less than three years of age, slept with an older sister who had an attack of smallpox which was not recognized at the time, and she did not contract the disease. The older sister had been vaccinated three times and was said to be immune because the vaccination did not "take."

These individual instances could be multiplied almost indefinitely to show that the vaccinated contract smallpox and the unvaccinated escape it.

The only conclusion we can reach is that the evidence for vaccination, after a hundred years of experience, is anything but favorable, and all vaccination laws must be repealed in time.

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