

medical science as we in Canada are. At the present time compulsory vaccination is a dead letter in the public schools of Toronto.

Our profession and this Association have frequently with no uncertain sound voiced their opinion in reference to this state of affairs. The public for whom we are working are either indifferent as to ultimate results or ignorant upon the subject. The awakening will be extremely rude when it comes, as it certainly will come.

Pasteur in more recent times conferred a boon upon mankind by providing a serum which rendered one bitten by a rabid dog immune to hydrophobia.

Mark the difference in the reception given by the public to his discovery and that accorded to Jenner's theory of vaccination. This may in part be due to the fact that vaccination against smallpox was given to the world when the laity, and even our own profession were less able to grasp the meaning of it than at the present time. It may also in part be due to the fact that Pasteur's serum is used only when there has been exposure to rabies. The public can see then the wisdom of protecting themselves against hydrophobia, the disease most terrible to the popular imagination. They know that the bite of a rabid dog is fully expected to result in hydrophobia, and they will resort to the remedy at once and without question. I doubt very much whether there is a solitary member of our Board of Education who would decline to undergo treatment immediately, if bitten by a mad dog. No, not even for the sake of appealing to popular prejudice, if such existed, would he do such a foolish thing. It is safe to say that there is no prejudice against the use of Pasteur's serum. Must men be infected with a disease which is necessarily and rapidly fatal before they will consent to use the remedy? Rabies—horrible and terrorizing to contemplate, but comparatively rare in occurrence—fatal. Yes, the argument is convincing—Pasteur's serum prevents—we will be advised by our physician, and even consider him a fool if he does not send us to New York at once.

Smallpox—vile, loathsome, extremely contagious, large numbers attacked when there has been no immunity previously provided, wiping out the population of large cities by thousands but recovery possible in a proportion of cases—no, we may not be infected, and if we are infected, we may recover. We will not be vaccinated, nor have our children vaccinated, nor will we require children attending school to be vaccinated. It would lose some votes for us on January 1st, we are afraid. Thus in this disease the health of the public is allowed to be a political football. Nothing short of a frightful epidemic of smallpox which decimates our population will prove to these men the efficacy and wisdom of vaccination.