

THE WEEKLY MAIL

THE WORKEY WALL

THE WO



A FAMILIAR CHAT ABOUT VAC NATION

BY A FAMILY DOCTOR.

I hesitated for a moment before I too up my pen to write on the subject whic gives its title te my present paper. But duty whispered to me to go on, and speat the truth in a noble cause.

Well, and I mean to. In my plain old fashioned way, I will try to point out the reader the benefits of judicious vaccination, as a preventive of one of the mos direful and horrible diseases that eve afflicted the great human family. What have to say, will only confirm the view already held by the great majority of m readers. Of that fact I am pleasantlaware. But I have, moreover, the audicity to believe that this paper will winot one, but many others over to our wa of thinking. At the same time, I wish the put no undue pressure upon any one, sav perhaps the pressure of common sense.

Long, long ago, reader—long before either you or I was thought of, or dream of—when our great-grandfathers were children. I hesitated for a moment before I of when our great-grandfathers wer children, or perhaps not born, a terrib and loathsome scourge was raging rampar and loathsome scourge was raging rampar in our land. I refer to the disorder called variola, or small-pox. In some epidemic it was almost the exception, rather that the rule, if any one escaped; and it is not small the rule. overstating, but rather understating the fact, to say that one in every four those attacked was hurried to the grave, corpse that no one dared look upon. I rank in life was able to boast of immuni rank in life was able to boast of immunit from the terrible plague, it spared neithe age nor sex, nor beauty itself; and most of those who escaped death were sadly difigured, sometimes rendered sightless for life. The mortality was frightful to contemplate. Just hear what Marson says:

"It [the small-pox] is a most fatal disease at all periods of life, but most so in infancy and old age. Under five years of age it in fifty per cent.; still greater however me and old age. Under five years of age it ifity per cent.; still greater, however, under two years. After the age of twenty the rate of mortality suddenly rises, and increases gradually; at thirty it exceeds the mortality of infancy, and after sixty hardle one escapes." Terribly significant word these. Just fancy, if you can, a happ family of, say, ten in all, living in comfor if not in affluence. This family had hardle ever known a sorrow; the little affliction which are inseparable from all of us in the life, had but served to tighten the ties of affection which bound them together Happiest of all happy hours of the day was the hour when father returned from business in the evening; soft, warm, wee arm were stretched out to meet him, lips poute for kisses; then around the bright parlot

were stretched out to meet him, lips poute for kisses; then around the bright parlou fire, when supper was over, what a happ circle! What need to describe the scene? We all of us, I trust, know some thing of the quiet joys of the family fire side. What matters it then to them the wind is roaring in the chimney? only makes the fire burn the brighter, and the knowledge that there is frost and snow without just but serves to make thing more soug within. The very tably control of the stable more snug within. The very tabby corpartakes of a share of bliss, and has justing wee "Johnnie" sound asleep on the hearth. The kettle is singing, too; an Annie, the eldest, "sweet and twenty, and beautiful and fresh as only an Englis maider can be, is quietly preparing he father's tea. There is a dreamy, far-awallook in Annie's blueeyes. Annie is thinking of something very pleasant, for Annie is see

maiden can be, is quietly preparing he father's tea. There is a dreamy, far-awa look in Annie's blue eyes. Annie is thinkin of something very pleasant, for Annie is soo to bemarried. Soon, did I say? Stay, the plague is at the door. This is the last pleasant evening they will spend togethe upon earth. Succeed to it weeks of satisfiring and sorrow. Within a fortnight twe, then three of the youngest are laid it their little graves, and shortly after grand paps succumbs and dies. How the gloon deepens around the devoted house! for overcome with grief on the death of stianother child, both father and mother sicken, and father and mether die. Hard ly is sufficient medical attendance procurable; nursing is scarcely possible, for the servants have fled, and out of all that family but three have escaped—two bravelad that battled through it all, and poor Annibut Annie is blind.

I shall not venture for one moment tharow the feelings of my readers by describing the symptoms of small-pox; many unfortunately, know them too well from experience. I ask such as a particula favour, to describe to their neighbours in plain language what they have suffered and what they have seen.

All honour to the name of the immortation language what they have suffered and what they have seen.

All honour to the name of the immortation learn, who sleeps in his quiet grave on the green cliffs of Folkestone. What alloring, was that of the I4th of May 1796, the birthday of vaccination! "On that day, matter was taken from the hand of Sarah Nelmes, who had been infected while milking her master's cows, and this matter was inserted by two superficial incisions into the arms of James Phipps, a healthy boy of about eight years of age. He went through the disease in a regular and satisfactory manner; but the most agitating part of the trial still remained to be perfermed. It was needful to ascertain whether he was free from the contagion of small-pox. This point, so full of anxiety to Dr. Jenner, was fairly put to issue on the lst of the following Jul

Jenner established a law which the experience of millions upon millions of human beings, in generations since, has only served to strengthen. It is too, wonderful to think that there can be a single individual in these islands who cannot see at a glance the simplicity, beauty, and truth of this law. There is no contagion in the world so certain and sure as the contagion of small-pex—not even that of hydrophobia or rabies in the dog. The very emanations or exhalations from the body of any one six in small-pox, if breathed by a healthy person, are in manyinstances sufficient to induce the disorder; and yet here is this healthy yeung boy James Phipps, who receives the small-pox matter into his very blood, and still he does not take the disease!

isease ! Hundreds of years before Dr. Jenner's Hundreds of years before Dr. Jenner's time it had been known as a well-established law, even among such semi-civilised mations as the Chinese, that some diseases granted a complete immunity from subsequent attacks to those who had once suffered from them. The small-pox is one of those diseases; and inoculation as a preventive had long been known in this country. By inoculation, I of course mean taking the small-pox matter frem a sick man, and inserting it into the body of another. The person thus inoculated had the disease, to be sure, but had it in a very much milder form; pitting was to a very great extent prevented, and he was free from all future attacks. Inoculation entailed immunity from future attacks, it is true, but it was often a painful price to pay for it, as there were always constitutional as well as local symptoms. As a proof of the benefits of inoculation in cases where vaccination is impossible, I may simply instance the case of a man-of-war ship in the trepics, on which virulent small-pox broke out. The men were all unprotected. Sixteen took the disease naturally; the remainder of the healthy crew, 360 in all, the surgeon inoculated from the sick. Now mark this: of the sixteen who took the disease in the natural way, no less than fine died; of the 360 who were inoculated not a man perished.

It is strange that some of the greatest