

favourite pupil, for Hunter recommended him to Sir Joseph Banks to aid him in arranging the collections which he had made during Captain Cook's first celebrated voyage of discovery. One biographer, indeed, states that Hunter solicited Jenner to become his partner; but the old life in Gloucestershire was more to his liking, and he returned to Berkeley, where he soon became the leading practitioner. But at the same time, he did not lose his love for observation, and his publications, more especially a paper upon the habits of the young cuckoo, gained him his F.R.S. It was here at home in Gloucestershire that he learnt the tradition concerning the effects of cow-pox, and set himself to work to collect together what cases he could find of cow-pox having rendered those affected thereby refractory to small-pox. He collected together a considerable number of very clear cases, some of which he tested by variolation, and he found that inoculation of matter taken from small-pox patients constantly was without effect in those antecedently affected with the genuine cow-pox. And the conclusion was forced upon him that it might be possible to propagate the cow-pox by inoculation, not only from the cow to the human subject, but also from man to man. And as the complaint when transferred from the cow to the milker possessed the quality of preventing the small-pox, it seemed probable that this quality might be retained even by propagation of the virus in succession from one human being to another. At length, in the spring of the year 1796, the cow-pox having broken out in a dairy near Berkeley, Sarah Nelmes, a milkmaid, became infected in one hand which had accidentally been scratched by a thorn. Here was an example of the genuine disease, and Jenner selected a healthy boy named Edmund Phipps, a boy who had not suffered from small-pox, and on him on the historic May the 14th he made his first trial. On the seventh day the boy complained of uneasiness in the armpit and had a slight headache. On the following day he was perfectly well, and by now the incision of the arm had assumed nearly the appearance of a part inoculated with variolous lymph. The inflammation subsided, the crust formed and dropped off, leaving a permanent eschar, and six weeks later, on the 1st of July, Jenner inoculated the boy with variolous matter, making numerous punctures and slight incisions on both arms. No effect was produced other than such a slight and transient inflammation as usually ensues after the inoculation of persons who had already suffered from small-pox. Several months later the inoculation was repeated, but without effect. At this period Jenner did not essay to carry on the vaccination from arm to arm, and the epizootic of cow-pox having died out, he had to wait two years for an opportunity to