

only 17 out of 128 had been vaccinated, and of these a number had very poor scars. The great preponderance of the disease amongst the unvaccinated forms one of the strongest arguments that the disease is a true form of smallpox, and not impetigo or chickenpox as has been claimed by many practitioners.

No satisfactory explanation of the remarkably mild character of the infection has yet been offered. In this respect, however, the disease behaves like many other infectious processes. Epidemics of scarlatina, diphtheria and typhoid show remarkable variation of virulence in different years and in different epidemics. That the disease is not varioloid is proved by the selection of the unvaccinated, and again when the eruption appears it keeps coming out for two or three days, and does not all appear at the same time as in varioloid.

The gravity of the affection consists chiefly in the difficulty of isolating individuals. The symptoms are so slight that careless and ignorant people may readily walk about and form so many centres of contagion.

At any time this mild epidemic may assume a virulent type. Spalding refers to a mild case from Minnesota, visiting her home in Chicago. Two sisters, a brother and father, none of whom had been vaccinated, developed the disease. The father and sisters had a mild attack, but the brother had a severe confluent form of smallpox and died in two weeks.

The appearance of a patient suffering from the mild form of smallpox is unmistakable. The cutaneous lesions are similar to those occurring in ordinary smallpox, differing however from it in the more rapid evolution of the cutaneous lesions and in their more superficial character. The absence of secondary fever, the comparative mildness of the initial symptoms, and the remarkably low mortality are the most striking features of this type of the disease when contrasted with ordinary smallpox.

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