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ART. XLVI—*On the identity of Cowpox and Smallpox.* By ANTHONY VON IFFLAND, M.D., M.R.C.S.Eng., &c., &c.

Some years since, (I believe in 1845) I submitted to the medical profession, through the "Journal of Medical Science" so ably conducted by you for many years, and other medical periodicals, my conviction, that the vaccine virus, in consequence of the many and various systems through which it had been transmitted for a long period of time, without any renewal from the cow, had in a great measure lost its protective power. Of late years I have had many opportunities of being, with you, also convinced, that it afforded only temporary security against the ravages of small-pox.

To remedy this evil, I had, with others, suggested the desirableness of fresh matter being taken from the cow, when practicable; but, as has already been observed, "it is one thing to speculate and advise upon the matter, and another practically to proceed with it." It has been generally admitted that the cow-pox is only a modification of small-pox by the nature of the animal in which it is generated, and although I have not gone so far as *personally* to inoculate a cow with the natural small-pox virus, I can bear testimony to the fact, that the small-pox matter will, if introduced into the cow's teat, produce at all times the same sore, or as it is now universally called, the vaccine pustule; there may, in some respects be dissimilarity, but they are the same; and that the cow-pox is small-pox passing through the constitution of the cow, and which, having lost its infectious quality, will retain its protective power in the human system, at least for a certain period of time there can be no doubt of. About six weeks since, we had in the hospital a large number of cases of Small-pox among the Germans and Poles, with many of a confluent character, but in consequence of the salubrity of the island and the excellent ventilation which the locality of the Small-Pox Hospital affords, nearly all recovered, (the four deaths having occurred among young children), while the patients, from time to time, were allowed, at an early convalescence to walk about and sit within the prescribed limits of the hospital. A few of these