

most probably the respiratory tract, the poison being inhaled and thence taken into the general circulation. The poison also adheres to clothes, body, or bed linen, etc., and retains its pathogenic power for a long time. Its vitality is retained after death and the room, which may have been occupied by a patient, the bedding and articles of furniture, all serve to convey the disease. Isolation is applicable to recognized cases of smallpox, but is powerless against smallpox patients in the earlier stages, who may light up infection in exposed persons, by contact or by the transmission of formites before the true nature of their complaint is discovered. Cleaning-up and disinfection may not be employed until the mischief is done.

The best all-round means of preventing smallpox is to render every person insusceptible to the infection of that disease, which can be accomplished by vaccination.

An instructive method of convincing oneself of the value of vaccination is to observe the immunity of nurses and physicians in smallpox hospitals, who could not escape the infection were they not protected by vaccination or revaccination. On this subject a writer in the *Sanitary Record* (England) said recently: "During the past seven years 630 cases of smallpox have been admitted in the Liverpool Smallpox Hospital. During that time 434 persons have been variously employed in this hospital in different capacities; six of them had had smallpox before joining; of the remaining 428 of this large staff two contracted smallpox, and these two were ward-maids who had entered the wards before vaccination. One hundred students and doctors attended these patients and none caught the disease; all of them had been revaccinated. . . . We do not get this immunity in the fever wards, for twenty-six members of the staff in the Fever Hospital took these diseases."

Many other equally convincing statistics and observations taken from the military, naval and civil service reports of different countries could be given, if necessary, to show the uniform behavior of vaccination and revaccination in protecting exposed persons from smallpox. It is well, however, that examples such as the one we have quoted should be related from time to time, for the anti-vaccinationist is abroad in the land. If the ordinary citizen will but listen while there is yet time he may obtain, with but a trifling inconvenience, protection against smallpox, by means of