

established for the poor, and defended for them against the clumsy manipulations of shallow municipal economists; of the lives of citizens preserved; of a man's duty manfully done, with the sacrifice of all personal and selfish considerations, and in despite of that great modern bugbear of popular clamour which has so often driven incompetent officials to mischief. It is an invidious action for a junior practitioner to pass an opinion upon the conduct of a senior, but the fear of personal misrepresentation shall never deter me from doing an act of justice.

CHARACTER OF THE EPIDEMIC.

I have now to lay before you some of the statistics of the epidemic. The cases, so far as made known to the Board of Health, were 205 in all; 98 males and 107 females. Of these, 32 males and 39 females died; 71 in all, or nearly 34 per cent. of the whole number attacked. This heavy mortality was chiefly due to three circumstances, each of which claims a word or two for itself. 1st, The neglect of vaccination; 2nd, The large proportion of those who were attacked during the early months of life; and 3rd, The great malignity which has everywhere characterised the epidemic of 1871.

1st. *Neglect of Vaccination* in every small-pox epidemic is the chief cause of both the extension of the disease and its fatality. I need not waste time in dwelling upon truths which have been ten thousand times told, and fifty thousand times demonstrated during the past eighty years, although it seems that there are some people who can never be induced to realize them. No epidemic could confirm them more forcibly than that of which I am now speaking. Of 138 unvaccinated people who took the disease here last year, only one escaped with a varioloid attack, and 69, or just half of them, died; twenty-five, or not far from half of these, again, had either hæmorrhagic small-pox, which is invariably and speedily fatal, or the petechial form, which, though a little more protracted in duration, is hardly less deadly. All the rest, except some eight or nine, had confluent or copious eruptions which, even in epidemics of the ordinary type, prove fatal to a full third of those who exhibit them. On the other hand, 67 vaccinated people took the disease, and 30, or nearly half of them got off with varioloid attacks: Only *two* of them died, or about 3 per cent., which is just the usual mortality of small-pox after vaccination. This furnishes us with an important addition to the argument in favour of vaccination, which I have not found dwelt upon as strongly as it deserves to be by any of our authorities, i.e., that *the malignancy of the epidemic does not*