

Moreover, the disease under consideration is of such a loathsome character and withal so fatal, that since preventive measures have become known and their practical value understood, they have been and are applied to the stamping out of small-pox with probably tenfold more vigor than they are applied to the stamping out of any other disease, or especially of the milder and vastly less terrifying ones, such as measles and whooping-cough.

The cholera, an exotic disease it is true, has been, without the application of any such prophylactic as vaccination, but by other, and I must say, more rational and scientific sanitary measures, bereft of its terrors, and is now almost unknown in Europe.

Now let us notice different, but perhaps somewhat stronger, evidence in favor of vaccination.

During the period between the institution of the first civil registration act in Great Britain (1836) and the passing of the first compulsory vaccination act in 1854, a period of 18 years, the annual average death rate from small-pox in England and Wales was 420 per million, while in the following 28 years of compulsory vaccination, it fell to 196 per million, or to considerably less than half. This is regarded as a strong point; but we must bear in mind that the first of these periods was comparatively a short one, and if a few years of absence from epidemics of the disease were added to it, a greatly reduced mortality in it would be shown. In fact, the reduced mortality in the latter period, in view of the great fluctuations in the mortality from the disease, during the last two hundred and fifty years, does not *prove* anything.

Again, in view of the recent proposed motion for the repeal of the compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Acts in the Parliament of Great Britain, Dr. W. B. Carpenter has addressed a letter to the Rt. Hon. Lyon Playfair against the motion. He points out that great reduction in the mortality from small-pox followed the two principal legislative measures for the promotion of vaccination. But he did not state that these two principal legislative measures were enacted on the decline of two great epidemic periods; such periods being invariably followed by a decline in the mortality. It appears, on the other hand, from the Annual Summary of the Registrar-General for 1880, that there has been a great increase in the number of deaths from this disease since the commencement of compulsory vaccination. In London, probably the best vaccinated city in the world, in the decenniad between 1851 and 1860, there were 7,150