

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION.—The reported outbreak of small pox in Paris renders the following remarks of the London (Eng.) "Insurance Observer" upon the possibility of the loathsome disease appearing in virulent form in England very timely. It seems that Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, chief medical officer of the city of London, has been aroused to the danger arising from the anti-vaccination movement, and the "Observer" comments as follows:

"Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, the City's chief medical officer, has generally been associated with dry-as-dust facts and figures, but it is evident that on one subject at least he can warm to his work when the fit takes him. On the question of vaccination, and the recent action of the Legislature in yielding to platform faddists, the eminent *medico* speaks out in very strong language—none too strong, by the way, for the occasion. Unless rumour lies, he tells us:—

"This degradation was forced upon the Government by political exigency, but whatever the cause it has thrown back progressive sanitation for an indefinite period, casts an indelible slur upon its authors and forms a curious commentary upon the dogma of their great chief who taught the doctrine of *sanitas sanitatem, omnia sanitas*. It needs no prophetic power to forecast the outcome of this departure from the true principles of preventive medicine. At the appointed time, when the usual cycle of events brings a visitation of small pox, we shall see our fellow beings, some disfigured for life, some hopelessly blind. The Nemesis representing the righteous anger of the gods will in due course inevitably claim the penalty of this wicked violation of the established and abundantly proved protection afforded by vaccination, and it will be but poetic justice and in accordance with the irony of events if its authors and their descendants are the first victims; and few will pity them."

It is seriously to be feared that Dr. Sedgwick Saunders is right and the anti-vaccinationists altogether wrong, and that sooner or later the countryside will be swept by this deadly and loathsome complaint unless common sense comes to the rescue. At any

rate it is certain that small-pox, like most epidemic evils, has a tendency to recur in virulent form at more or less regular intervals, though never wholly absent from our midst. Another danger lies behind the anti-vaccination movement. Some authorities contend that one disease will graft upon another, and should small-pox and bubonic plague appear here concurrently the future consequences might be lamentable. The plagues which have ravaged Europe during the last 900 years have certainly not all been of the same type, though closely related to some common origin.—"Insurance Observer."

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