

hand between the thumb and first finger. The operation had the desired effect. Three years later when all the other children of the school sickened with small-pox the three remained quite healthy; but unfortunately the choice of region for inoculation had led to so severe an inflammation that Plett never again ventured to repeat the process. These and yet other observers, it may be, had vaccinated prior to Jenner, but with this difference, that they made no attempt to repeat the process, to establish the correctness of the process by later inoculation with variolous matter, or to spread abroad the beneficial results accruing therefrom. Only after the publication of Jenner's famous "Inquiry" was any attempt made to publish the results obtained. Jenner, on the other hand, having once succeeded, was not satisfied until after repeated attempts he felt assured that he had determined that an attack of induced cow-pox protected from the small-pox. Then, two years after this first experiment, he published the inquiry into the causes and effects of the variolæ vaccinæ, and thereby inaugurated or led to the inauguration of the process of vaccination. That motion can be brought about by the boiling of water may have been known for centuries, but it is not to Hero, of Alexandria, or even to the Marquis of Worcester that we are to ascribe the honour in connection with the discovery of the steam engine, it is to James Watt, to him who applied a knowledge of the properties of steam to the production of the steam engine the honour is due. Hundreds of patriotic Germans may have dreamt of and sighed for the unification of Germany, but the honour and the glory of having brought about that unification is now and must always be Bismarck's. And so in connection with vaccination, while we are ready freely to acknowledge that there were others who inoculated before Jenner, yet it is to his labours and his researches, and to him alone, that the honour and glory must be ascribed, if now-a-days small-pox has almost vanished from our midst, not to mention the further honour of having inaugurated the method of protective inoculation.

So now for a brief sketch of Jenner. He was born in the year 1749, a younger son of the Rev. Stephen Jenner, vicar of Berkeley. He was apparently not very strong as a boy, and his education was conducted partly at home, partly at Cirencester, which is not very far distant; and being intended for the medical profession was, after the good old fashion, bound apprentice to a surgeon at Sudbury. Completing his apprenticeship he went to London, and there became a pupil to him whom we may truly call the father of British pathology, the great John Hunter. And he would seem to have been a