

The author's conclusions were—

1st. That natural small-pox destroyed about one-third of all whom it attacked.

2nd. That small-pox after small-pox was of comparatively rare occurrence; that a second attack of natural small-pox was rare, but not often fatal, and that protection seemed to be the law. That after inoculated small-pox, an attack of small-pox had more frequently led to fatal results; but there is reason to presume that the virus used for inoculation—like a great deal of the lymph used at the present day for vaccination—was often taken at too advanced a period of the disease, and thus did not afford the full measure of protection it was capable of affording if taken at a proper time.

3rd. That vaccination performed in infancy afforded almost complete protection against the fatality of small-pox, to the period of puberty; that a variety of circumstances conspired to make it almost impossible to ascertain exactly in what proportion to the vaccinated cases of small-pox subsequently occurred, or might occur, if all persons lived to an advanced age.

4th. That, as a matter of safety, it would be well for all persons who were vaccinated in infancy to be revaccinated at puberty; this measure being more especially requisite for those who were either indifferently or doubtfully vaccinated in infancy, and still more necessary for those who, though vaccinated, had no cicatrix remaining. Finally, as a matter of precaution, it would be desirable that all persons should be re-vaccinated, on small-pox existing in the house where they were residing.

Mr. Streeter would suggest the necessity of attending to the health of the skin before vaccination was performed. He believed that the exhausted state of the skin in tropical climates was one cause of the imperfect vaccination in them. About thirty years ago, in the practice with which he was connected, out of more than a hundred children who had been vaccinated, not one half returned to show the arm and the effects of the operation. He had only seen one fatal case of small-pox after vaccination, on the fifth day. He alluded to one source of danger in cases of small-pox—namely, a profuse flow of the catamenia, which occasionally occurred in the secondary fever.

Dr. Webster entirely concurred with the opinion stated, respecting the great fatality of small-pox among young people compared with those in more advanced life. For instance, during 1817, when upwards of 4,200 persons died by variola throughout England and Wales, more than three-fourths were under five years of age—the sexes being equally divided; while very few had passed their forty-fifth year. Again, the fact that death very rarely occurred in cases where the individual had been properly vaccinated in three or four places at the same time, was likewise most important, and showed, if the system was once properly imbued with true vaccine virus, little danger of the subsequent small-pox need be apprehended. In his (Dr. Webster's) opinion, many of the deaths reported from variola, after cow-pox, occurred where the party never had been correctly vaccinated, especially throughout rural districts and country towns, where numbers remain unprotected, owing to the prejudices prevailing in ignorant minds against vaccination, who obstinately object to the operation, "as an impious attempt to arrest the will of the Almighty."

Dr. Chowne, having been a frequent visitor at the Small-pox Hospital, could corroborate many of the statements made in the paper. The fact mentioned in the paper, of the number of persons affected with small-pox after vaccination in the country, was most important. The failure of vaccination in country districts was most lamentable; but it was not the fault of the practitioners—it was the fault of the Boards of Guardians, of the Government, by whom no efficient arrangements for vaccination were made, and consequently thousands lost their lives.

Mr. Marson said that, much of his paper being tabular, it could not be heard before the Society. He wished, however, just briefly to allude to the number and quality of cicatrices. The difference observed was remarkable.