

thrown into mourning and distress by this fearful scourge. The practice of vaccination was, at first, strenuously opposed by certain parties in England; but, in a few years it became universal throughout Europe and America, and some parts of Asia, and the discoverer was every where lauded as a benefactor of his kind. Inoculation was now almost altogether thrown aside. Some persons, however, continuing to prefer it to vaccination, a law was passed by the Imperial Parliament, in the year 1840, prohibiting the practice of inoculating with the matter of small pox throughout England and Ireland, under heavy penalties.

It is a singular fact that, while countries abroad have adopted a different course, in Great Britain, where the protective virtues of the vaccine virus were first discovered, no governmental action has been taken, until lately, for the purpose of making the practice of vaccination obligatory. England and France are the only two countries in Europe where vaccination is left to the option of parents or individuals. A bill, however, has been recently brought before the house of Lords, by Lord Lyttleton, and ordered to be read the third time, for the purpose of extending the practice of vaccination in England. In this bill his lordship does not interfere in any way with the act now in force, but rather seeks to extend its provisions. The law, as it exists at present, empowers the guardian of every Union to contract with a medical man to perform vaccination on the children of all who choose to avail themselves of the opportunity. His lordship, in addition to this, would make vaccination compulsory by pecuniary penalties, as now obtains in Hanover, Bavaria, and Sweden. Some very striking statistics were brought before the notice of the house, shewing the marked infrequency of small pox in those countries where through the stringency of the laws, persons were obliged to get their children vaccinated, and the obvious effect which vaccination has on the multiplication or declination of the disease in proportion to its restriction or extension. "The average of deaths," said his lordship, "from small pox out of every 1000 deaths from all causes within the bills of mortality were in the 10 years preceding 1760, 100; 1770, 108; 1780, 98; 1790, 87; 1800, 88; 1810, 64; 1820, 42; 1830, 32; 1840, 23; 1850, 16. If he came to particular cases, he found that Mr. Sivett of Wells mentioned a village in which there had been no small pox since 1837. In Chelsea Royal Military Asylum, in 48 years, on an aggregate of 31,705, not one death had occurred from small pox after vaccination, and only four from second attacks of unvaccinated persons. In Ahmedabad, in Bombay, where vaccination was introduced in 1817, it became general in 1825 and small pox had since been unheard of. In Hanover, in 1847, of 45,830 deaths, there were only eight from small pox. In Denmark, at one period small pox had entirely disappeared, so universal was the practice of vaccination."