

requested, in the absence of Sir Spencer Wells, to place a laurel wreath upon the statue, and to deliver an address in English.

FOSSIL MICROBES.—In a recent communication to the Académie des Sciences, M.M. Reynault and Bertrand stated that, in examining sections of coprolites of the Permian period, they noted the presence of a considerable quantity of microbes of different kinds—isolated rodlets and diplo-bacilli, strepto-bacilli, vibrios, and filaments. There were also mucedinea, with mycelium and detached spores. The Permian bacterium is said not to resemble any of the forms known to exist at present. M.M. Reynault and Bertrand throw out the suggestion that possibly these may be only one species of bacterium which is polymorphic.

ANTIVACCINATION FALSEHOODS.—We have received a circular letter of invitation, which is being widely distributed, to a demonstration to be held “under the auspices of the . . . London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination,” at Mile End, on September 4th. The following data are given as regards Leicester in respect of the smallpox outbreak of 1892-93 :

Per Million Living.			
The death rate from smallpox of the	revaccinated	was	270
“	“	“	vaccinated 159
“	“	“	non-vaccinated 109 only.

These data are absolutely and scandalously false and misleading. There were no deaths in the period stated among “revaccinated” persons. We fail to see, therefore, how there can be alleged a death rate at all, much less 270 deaths per million in “revaccinated” individuals. The deaths among the “non-vaccinated” to give the above rate have been taken *on the whole population over 10 years of age*, and those on the “vaccinated” on the *population under 10 years of age*. The results are perfectly absurd, and once more wilfully misleading. In regard to the further fabricated falsehoods as to Leicester, as a matter of fact the death rates per million of the three classes, on the total estimated population of Leicester in 1893, were as follows :

Revaccinated	0.0 per million.
Vaccinated	5.4 “ “
Non-vaccinated	102.7 “ “

The circular goes on to show that the infantile death rate in Mile End in 1893 was below that of London as a whole. What has that to do with the matter at issue? What of Portland Town, Lisson Grove, and Mr. Wynter Blyth’s demonstrations of the need and value of vaccination?—*British Medical Journal*.

NON NOCERE—HARM NOT.—Professor A. Jacobi delivered an address having the suggestive title of “Non Nocere.” There was a neglect in the study of special branches at the expense of progress in general medicine. Many of the so-called specialists were untrained men, and others calling themselves scientific men were given to accepting and even advocating proprietary medicines and food nostrums, encouraging fads of sensational treatment of tuberculosis, cholera, and senility. Harm was also done by rash surgical and gynecological interference, while overdosing was just as bad, as well as the