

only now, one hundred years after Jenner's first vaccination, are we beginning to apply successfully the principles underlying Jenner's method of arresting infectious diseases, principles which Jenner himself appreciated, but could not satisfactorily establish—and now with a fuller knowledge of those principles, a future dawns upon us, rich in hope.

Mindful of the day, and as a pious duty, let me first briefly recite the main facts that led up to the discovery of vaccination, recalling matters that are historical and, I doubt not, well-known to you.

Our knowledge of small-pox goes back to remote times. The earliest sure reference to it is of its appearing in the Abyssinian army at the siege of Mecca, in what was known as the Elephant War, of about the year 570. The earliest references to small-pox in England, if we leave out a possibly correct reference by Gaddesden early in the fourteenth century, occurs in letters of the years 1514 and 1518. The disease gradually rose to prominence about the end of Elizabeth's reign. In the autumn of 1641 we hear of 118 people dying with small-pox in London in one week, at a time when the population was between 300,000 and 400,000, or roughly about the same as that of Montreal. The experiences in England were similar to those on the European continent generally. Towards the close of the seventeenth century the disease became more and more general and more and more feared. In Iceland, in 1707 to 1709, after an absence of nearly 40 years, it killed 18,000 in a total population of 50,000. In England, in 1723, Dr. Jurin calculated that upwards of 7 per cent, or somewhat more than 1-14th part of mankind, died of small-pox.

In 1775 it would seem that in Chester, only 1,060, or 1 out of every 14, had not contracted small-pox.

I have seen it stated as an explanation of the lack of beauty revealed by the pictures by Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller and others, of the Court beauties of the 17th and 18th centuries, that so common was the disfigurement by poek-marks that complexion was taken as the test of beauty, that the woman whose face was not disfigured by small-pox became of necessity the beauty of her neighbourhood, if only her features were not absolutely commonplace.

To arrest the ravages of small-pox it would seem that from a very early period, in various parts of the world, it had been the custom to inoculate young and healthy individuals with matter from those suffering from mild attacks of the disease, founded upon the common knowledge that one attack of small-pox protects against a second. It would appear to have been a most ancient custom in India, and at the