

Any reformer, however, who expects to prevent baldness by changing American habits may as well stop at once, for he will surely fail. Now, there may be, perhaps, help in some other quarter. The sons of prematurely bald fathers should bear in mind that if they wish to save their hair it will only be through industrious attention to their scalp. This much-neglected surface should be thoroughly cleansed at certain intervals. It should be carefully and regularly examined, and if it be unhealthy, dry, and scurfy, the proper applications should be made to it. The wearing of unventilated hats is one of the greatest sources of failure of nutrition of the hair, and these must be avoided. The beard never falls out, because it gets plenty of sunlight and air. These are what the hair of the scalp needs, also. Women are less bald than men, because, for one reason, their scalps are better ventilated. In fine, civilization has made the hair producing organs of the scalp delicate and feeble. They have to be nursed and cared for, or they atrophy and disappear. Young Americans who do not wish to lose their hair before they are forty must begin to look after their scalps before they are twenty.—*New York Med. Record*, January 23, 1886.

VACCINATION.

A week or so ago, in looking over the morning paper, our eye caught sight of a paragraph stating that a riot had occurred in a city in Lower Canada, in consequence of an attempt on the part of the authorities to enforce general vaccination. Some two hundred men had assembled together, and declared that under no circumstances would they submit to this protective operation.

The prevalence of such a sentiment as this explains at once the unusual fact of a summer epidemic of small-pox in Montreal and adjacent Canadian territory. We unhesitatingly say that wherever small-pox prevails in this age of the world it casts a sombre light on the civilization of that place and nation. It proves that the people are ignorant, negligent, or blindly bigoted; it shows that the authorities are feeble, or blind to their duties; it reveals a condition of intellectual darkness which is far behind what should be the average of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Were the precautions taken which all physicians and intelligent laymen are equally familiar with, epidemics of small-pox would never occur again. These precautions are all summed up in the word, *vaccination*,—vaccination with pure virus, preferably that derived directly from the cow, repeated often enough to render it certain that the vaccinated person is wholly unsusceptible to the specific action of the virus. This is all, and this is enough. Long personal observation, including a period during the war, when we had charge of a small-pox hospital, and in camps where small-pox appeared in a malignant form, has impressed most incisively

upon us the belief that vaccination, properly carried out, will conquer and prevent any epidemic of the disease, even under circumstances most favorable to its dissemination. Perhaps it will not eradicate it; but it will certainly reduce it to the level of one of the least to be dreaded of diseases which occasionally involve a fatal issue, and will positively prevent epidemics like this one in Montreal.

We urge, therefore, all physicians, all Boards of Health, all sanitary bodies, all intelligent laymen, to advocate frequent, and, if necessary, obligatory vaccination.

There is now not the slightest difficulty in procuring an abundant supply of pure vaccine matter. The methods of obtaining it from the animals have been carefully studied, and are nowhere carried out with more scrupulous and successful care than by those physicians in our own country who have devoted their attention to supplying this product. We should recommend that the virus be obtained directly from them or their agents, rather than through trade channels, as more than one instance has been creditably reported to us where the latter supplied humanized instead of pure animal virus.—*Phil. Med. & Surg. Reporter*.

CHIENE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRACTICAL SURGERY.

Prof. John Chiene, in an admirable series of practical notes on every-day surgery, makes *inter alia*, the following suggestions:

In wounds of the face, the best stitch to use is horse-hair. Unless the wound is of considerable size, no form of drainage is necessary. The best dressing is a pad of salicylic cotton-wool, or corrosive wool, fixed in position with flexible collodion.

The introduction of the sharp spoon into surgical practice has greatly simplified the treatment of lupus. In the use of the sharp spoon, special care must be taken to scrape away the raised edges of the lupoid ulcer, as it is here that the pathological change is advancing. This is best done by scraping from the sound skin toward the centre of the ulcer. After the new formation is completely removed the best application is a powder which has been introduced into surgical practice by Dr. Mucas Championière, of Paris. It consists of (1) light carbonate of magnesia, which has been impregnated with the vapor of eucalyptus, (2) powdered benzoine, and (3) iodoform in equal quantities.

In persistent hemorrhage from the nasal cavity, plugging of the posterior nares should not be done until an attempt has been made to check the hemorrhage by firmly grasping the nose with the finger and thumb, so as completely to prevent any air passing through the cavity in the act of breathing. This simple means, if persistently tried, will in many cases arrest the bleeding. The hemorrhage persists because the clot which