



## EXTRA SHEET.

# ◇ MEDICAL CRITICISM. ◇

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### TESTIMONY RELATING TO VACCINATION.

**REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.**—Since the passage of the original Compulsory Vaccination Act in England, there have been three epidemics, with the following results:—

1st.—1857-59, there were 12,244 deaths.

2nd.—1863-65, there were 20,059 deaths.

3rd.—1870-72, there were 44,840 deaths.

Allowing for increase of population at 7 per cent. from the first to the second epidemic, there is an increase of small-pox in the same period of 44 per cent.; and allowing for an increase of population between the second and third epidemics of 10 per cent., there is shown an increase of small-pox of 120 per cent.!! In this remarkable fashion has the Jennerian nostrum stamped out small-pox.

**W. J. COLLINS, M.D., London.**—After occupying the position of Public Vaccinator for twenty years in one of the most populous metropolitan parishes, and having devoted twenty-five years to close study of the question, I have relinquished the practice of vaccination, with its emoluments, on the ground, that while it afforded no protection against the small-pox, it was the frequent cause of dangerous and fatal diseases; and my investigations into and experience of calf-lymph or bovine vaccination (advocated by Dr. H. A. Martin, of Boston, U.S., and Dr. Warlomont, of Brussels), has only confirmed my opinion on both these issues.

**THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.**—I regard compulsory and penal provisions, such as those of the Vaccination Act, with mistrust and misgiving, and were I engaged on an inquiry, I should require very clear proof of their necessity before giving them my approval.

**THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.**—The law which inflicts penalty after penalty on a parent who is unwilling to have his child vaccinated is monstrous, and ought to be repealed.

**MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.**—Every one who knows anything of public-health questions, and the practical unity of epidemics and their determining causes, will agree that exemption from all alike must be sought, not by any one thing, such as vaccination, but by removing the causes of epidemic-susceptibility generally.

“**LANCET**,” (June 22nd, 1878).—The notion that animal lymph would be free from chances of syphilitic contamination is so fallacious, that we are surprised to see Dr. Martin (of Boston, U. S.) reproducing it.

SIR ROBERT PEEL, BART. (1849).—To make vaccination compulsory, as in some despotic countries, would be so opposite to the mental habits of the British people, and the freedom of opinion wherein they rightly glory, that I never could be a party to such compulsion.

How much longer will the docile people of Ontario be content to be hoodwinked by the doctors ?

### OVERTHROW OF COMPULSORY VACCINATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The people of Switzerland have been greatly stirred by the attempt to force upon them a vaccination law of more than ordinary stringency. This *projet de loi*, known as the *epidemiem gesetz*, which rendered vaccination compulsory in 22 cantons, was passed by the Federal Chambers on January 31st last, and was the outcome of united action on the part of the Swiss Medical Commission, which had ascertained by a post card inquiry that out of 1,168 members of the profession, 1,122 were favorable to vaccination. The law was promulgated on February 14th, when, its oppressive character becoming known (the penalties being from 5 to 2,000 francs, or one year's imprisonment, according to the gravity of the offence), the people decided at once to exercise the right of a referendum, or appeal from the decisions of the Chambers to the suffrages of the people. This Constitutional right can only be utilized provided 30,000 signatures are obtained within 90 days. So great, however, was the public interest, and so pronounced the determination to throw off this yoke, that within the period prescribed upwards of 80,000 signatures were laid before the President of the Republic. The popular and final vote was taken on the 30th July, and in a despatch from Professor Vogt, of Berne University, I learn that notwithstanding the most vigorous efforts on the part of the medical faculty and their friends, who spared neither trouble nor expense in circulating their appeals, the law has been rejected by a majority of 253,968 votes, or about four for every one who voted in the affirmative, only one canton (Neuchatel) having a majority in favor of the law. The result has given a fresh impulse to the international movement against compulsory vaccination in Holland, Belgium, and Germany, and the leaders of the agitation in the latter country are confident that the Reichstag will follow the example of Switzerland, and repeal the German Vaccination Law at the next session. In order to co-operate in this important undertaking, the executive committee of the International Anti-Vaccination League has just decided to hold the third International Anti-Vaccination Congress at Berlin in January next, and arrangements will be made to secure the representation of all countries where this medical prescript on is enforced by municipal or Imperial statutes.—Yours faithfully, WILLIAM TEBB, 114 Victoria Street, Westminster, August 10th. (Mr. TEBB is the Honorary Secretary for the Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society.)

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