IV. Report of C. Nowell, M. D. of Boulogne, correspondent of the committee of medicine, commissioned to repeat at Paris the experiments respecting the vaccine inoculation, to C. Maselet, sub-præfect of the district of Boulogne-sur-Mer

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inoculated a child from the cow-pock pustulè surrounded by a cluster of small-pox; in short, they appeared so blended that I had my doubts whether the matter I obtained was that of the cow-pock or mixed with small-pox; indeed I was rather disposed to think the latter was the case, as it did not appear so limpid as it usually does in the cow-pock. However, the result is, that it produced the genuine cow-pock without any appearance different from what I have always seen; and with matter from this source I have continued to inoculate ever since, without any variation either in symptoms or appearance. If this case furnishes you with any thing new on the subject, I shall be very glad. I have no time now to make any comment upon it, as the post-office is just going to shut. I am, Yours sincerely,

JOHN BRANSON.

P. S. Since I wrote last to you, I have inoculated upwards of 500 for the vaccine disease, without any unpleasant symptoms.

IV. *Report of C. NOWELL, M. D. of Boulogne, Correspondent of the Committee of Medicine, commissioned to repeat at Paris the Experiments respecting the Vaccine Inoculation, to C. MASELET, Sub-Præfekt of the District of Boulogne-sur-Mer*.*

YOU are desirous of knowing the results which I have obtained respecting the new inoculation known under the name of the *vaccine*. As it was you who first patronised it, when Dr. Woodville, Dr. Aubert, and myself, introduced it into France†; and as it was you who triumphed over that coalition of prejudices, interests, and passions, which had armed against it even the supreme authority, you ought to be more interested than any other person in the success and propagation of a discovery which, without your assistance, would have been rejected, together with the vessel that brought it to your fellow-citizens.

* From *Decade Philosophique*.

† This is not true. The Vaccine Inoculation was introduced into France by the London Vaccine Institution.—See the Letter of the *Ecole Medicale* to Dr. Pearson, in our Magazine for August 1800, p. 279, &c.

Since the month of September, when I returned from Boulogne, I have inoculated for the vaccine 160 subjects of all ages, but the greater part children. All these different experiments, which were attended with the greatest success, have invariably displayed that character of mildness which establishes, in an incontestable manner, the superiority of the new over the old mode of inoculation; and the difference which we have had an opportunity of remarking in some of the results tends still further to confirm this superiority.

All the children and adults whom I inoculated during the whole course of the experiment continued their usual sports and exercises without feeling the least inconvenience. The adults followed their daily occupations, and in general experienced a very short sensation of uneasiness, and at most a slight febrile affection.

Six weeks after my first experiments I made successively seven counter-experiments. I carried to the house of C. Beaufoeil, whose children were attacked with the natural small pox, the eruption of which was very abundant, three children of C. Beugné, who had been inoculated with the vaccine. After leaving them a long time together, I inoculated my three subjects, as usual, with the variolous matter taken from the youngest of the children, who was covered with the eruption; but none of them experienced the least effect from the operation.

The other four subjects, whom I afterwards subjected to a counter-experiment, were, a young domestic of C. Wynne, another of C. Bell, and two sisters of the latter. I carried them to the house of C. Trudin, broker, whose child had the natural small-pox. They were all inoculated without the least effect.

C. Magnier, of Pont-de-Brique, having sent for his son from Boulogne, where he was at school, I inoculated him with the vaccine in the country. He was then sent back to school, where the small-pox had broken out during his absence. The young man continued as usual to frequent the company of his school-fellows infected with the contagion, to play with them, to eat with them, and to sleep in the same room with them, without experiencing any effect.

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I have had an opportunity in the course of my experiments to be convinced that the vaccine inoculation can have no effect on those who have had the small-pox. C. Beugné, already mentioned, believed that he had never had the small-pox. I inoculated him three different times with the vaccine matter, but always without any effect. Being struck with this phenomenon, I asked him some questions, when he acknowledged, that at the age of four years he had slept with one of his sisters who had been attacked with the confluent small-pox highly malignant, that he had been very sick for several days, but that his mother did not think him infected with the small-pox because he had no pustules, which are the usual symptom. This was an excellent opportunity for trying a new sort of counter-experiment: I inoculated C. Beugné with the small-pox, but they took no effect.

The son of C. Genou, of Samer, aged nine years, had been inoculated for the vaccine with fresh matter and of a good quality. Four days after I went to examine the child, and was much surprised to observe that the vaccine had produced nothing, though the child had been inoculated in three different places. This experiment had seldom failed, except when the subject had before had the small-pox. On examining the child, I found him with a languid look, a bad pulse, and a great deal of fever. I suspected, therefore, that he had been already infected with the small-pox at the time when I inoculated him for the vaccine. On inquiring, I found that the child had come from a house where the natural small-pox prevailed, in order to be inoculated. I foresaw that he was going to have the natural eruption, and indeed the disease appeared on him two days after. It was of the mild kind, and the punctures made for the vaccine were dry, and almost effaced.

My experience proved to me also, that in the case where the subject is already infected with the small-pox, the vaccine inoculation, which then remains without any apparent effect, adds nothing to the malignity of the small-pox. I am convinced that, whichever of the two infections is anterior in point of action and progress, prevents the action and pro-

grefs of the other; and consequently, as these two principles cannot exist together, the one cannot add to the other.

Another very important observation, which appears to me to prove that the vaccine is really a species of the small-pox, which differs from the human small-pox only by its origin and the peculiar character of mildness by which it is distinguished, is as follows:—A child of C. Billier, salt-refiner, on the ninth day of inoculation for the vaccine, which is the critical day, cut four teeth, two of them eye-teeth. A second crisis of nature so violent, ought to have been, and was accompanied with, a strong access of fever, which, added to the very moderate access arising from the vaccine, brought out on the child's body an eruption of 262 large pustules filled with limpid matter. No common inoculation ever produced any of so beautiful a kind; they ended without the least fever, and disappeared at the end of seven days without leaving any marks. This child since inoculation has enjoyed perfect health; and I have remarked that is invariably the effect of the vaccine. The case is far from being the same with the common inoculation. Of the children whom I inoculated with the vaccine, several were weak and ailing, often attacked with a violent cough, and two of them were wasted with a periodical fever. All these children, and in particular the two last, have enjoyed since the operation perfect health.

The vaccine inoculation serves me as a criterion to dissipate the uneasiness of those who have need of being assured that they have had the small-pox, and that they have nothing to fear.

I have offered a premium for every poor person who can be proved to me to have had the small-pox after being inoculated, with care, for the vaccine. I should not be afraid to risk my whole fortune at present on this head. But I cannot too strongly recommend to practitioners to bestow more care on this operation, and to repeat it if the least doubt should remain; otherwise there will be some danger of seeing persons attacked with the small-pox after being supposed secured from that disease by the vaccine. It is to errors of this kind that the obstacles opposed to the introduction

duction of the common inoculation in the north of England were to be ascribed.

This inestimable discovery has triumphed over all obstacles as well as over every prejudice in England. Sophisms have been refuted by facts; and it is contrary to the rules of good logic to reply to facts by hypotheses. The celebrated Doctor David, of Rotterdam, wrote to me in the month of October last, that the experiments which he repeated with the matter sent from Boulogne had been attended with the most complete success; and Dr. Jenner, the author of this noble discovery, informed him at that period, that more than 50,000 persons have been already inoculated with the vaccine in England; that a third of that number had been exposed to every test possible without the small-pox ever taking effect: and, in the last place, for five years, during which time he has been constantly employed in repeating the experiments, no one has ever yet refuted this theory, or weakened the conclusions he has drawn from it.

J. M. NOWELL, M.D.

Boulogne-sur-Mer,

Dec. 3, 1800.

*V. A short View of the new Electrical Experiments performed
by Dr. VAN MARUM.*

[Concluded from Page 193.]

7. **W**HEN the conductor at the tower of Siena was struck by lightning, several persons, besides the common electric light, clearly observed on it a regular train of light; and Beccaria gave to this phenomenon, which he endeavoured, without success, to imitate with his electric machine, the name of *divergent electricity*. Mr. Landriani requested Dr. Van Marum to try an experiment of the same kind with his large machine. Both these philosophers considered this divergent electricity as an effect of the resistance which metals oppose to the influx of the electric matter when they have too small a diameter, and throw off at the sides the matter not received. To ascertain this fact, an iron wire, $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in diameter, was placed at such a distance from
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