

quence of all this, know him, respect him, and form by their preference his private practice.

When the Poor-law Commissioners—to whom was committed, for the service of the whole population of this kingdom, the operation of an Act of Parliament for the Extension of Vaccination—did a violence to this possessory feeling by appointing a very small portion of medical practitioners for the service of the whole country, the large majority of the profession, so deprived of a well-earned right, have hitherto been silent upon the privation and upon such injustice, because, perhaps, it was expected that, despite of this, the object of the Act would be effected—namely, the extension of vaccination—so efficiently as to check or stop a national scourge; and so perhaps this silence on the part of five-sixths of the medical profession had arisen upon a principle not unknown to men of liberal education, that the interests of a few are not to be regarded in the accomplishment of public advantage.

But when we see that an Act of Parliament has fallen short of this final object, and all this, perhaps, from the very nature of its partial working as committed to the hands of a few, then it may be reasonably expected that the large majority of those who hold the confidence of the public, with reference to medical practice, should state their lesser evil, especially if that very evil is the real or the chief source of the greater one.

After nearly thirty years' observation in medical practice, I must at once confess that I do not entertain the same views upon this subject as are expressed in THE LANCET of the 16th instant by Mr. J. H. Barnes, of Liverpool; and I regret this because from the tenor of his letter he is evidently a gentleman of education and liberal sentiments.

He agrees that it would be useless to entrust the charge of public vaccination to every medical practitioner. He affirms that this would be of doubtful advantage to them, and that this arrangement would afford means of escape from vaccination to those who wish to avoid it. Mr. Barnes, however, does not show how it would be useless, inexpedient, and inefficient to trust to the *whole* medical profession in this national affair of moment; and I hope I shall be pardoned if I suggest that this possessory feeling to which I refer may, in some minds, and, indeed, in all minds, prevail, even under circumstances not rightfully originated.

I have again and again seen, through the whole period of enacted compulsory vaccination, that people look to their own medical men for advice and service in vaccination; they naturally receive with caution and suspicion the offer of services from one who is intruded upon them by Poor-law authority, and who may be not only unknown to them, but even, in some instances, if known, wholly disapproved.

In my own humble judgment, then, I do not hesitate to say, that when every man in England is offered the double advantage of vaccination at State cost by his known, approved, and chosen legally-qualified medical man, then we may with reason expect an efficient and happy effect of legal enactment.

WILLIAM MOORMAN, M.R.C.S.

Saint Columb, Cornwall, April, 1859.

REVACCINATION IN THE ARMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The perusal in THE LANCET of the 16th instant of a notice of the labours of M. Laure, a French naval surgeon, who has been busied on the same subject, has induced me to send you the following table of the results of adult revaccination in the 30th Regiment. These experiments were commenced in January, and completed a few days ago:—

	Total vaccinated.	Results.	Bearing marks of previous small-pox.	Bearing good marks of former vaccination.	Bearing doubtful marks of former vaccination.	Bearing no marks of either small- or cow-pox.	Total.
SOLDIERS ...	990	A perfect vesicle in...	113	357	36	8	514
		A modified „ ...	29	130	23	4	186
		A failure in ...	51	208	25	6	290
		Total ...	193	695	84	18	990
WOMEN	15	A perfect vesicle in...	3	2	1	6	12
		A modified „	2	...	1	3
		A failure in
		Total ...	3	4	1	7	15

I would premise that the ages of these soldiers ranged from sixteen to forty-two; that they were all inoculated from each other on the same day of each succeeding week; that the effects were carefully noted at the time; that the virus was obtained originally from the National Vaccine Establishment, London; and that I have designated all those vesicles as “modified” that were imperfect in form or wanting in areolæ.

The table shows that the percentage of complete failures out of 990 operations in the men was $29\frac{3}{10}$, while amongst the women it was 0; it further proves that the proportion of success (more or less complete) to failures was greatest, as would be presupposed, amongst those who had no marks of either previous small-pox or cow-pox; next amongst those bearing evidence of having formerly suffered from variola; thirdly, in individuals with good marks of previous vaccination; and smallest in those in whom external evidence of either former small-pox or cow-pox was doubtful. The absence of failure in the women is noticeable, but the number of persons experimented on is too small to warrant any decided conclusions.

The French surgeon above-named lays down the following propositions, which he considers proved:—

1. Vaccine matter inoculated from arm to arm is incomparably more efficacious than matter preserved between glasses.
2. Vaccine matter taken from revaccinated adults is susceptible of producing fine inoculable pustules, in the same manner as the matter taken from children.
3. With adults it is not indifferent whether the matter is deposited under the epidermis or more deeply; the latter mode should be adopted when revaccination is performed.
4. The practice of revaccination is not useless; it is, on the contrary, a very important hygienic measure, the execution of which should be carefully watched.
5. People who have had the small-pox should be revaccinated as well as those who have been subjected to the cow-pox inoculation.
6. The local phenomena in revaccination are not remarkable, provided the men on whom true or false pustules appear be exempted from any duty on the fifth day. The constitutional effects are unimportant.

With all these six conclusions I most fully and cordially concur; but must be permitted to add two others, which I believe to be equally true.

1. That lymph from the arms of revaccinated adults, in whom the pustule is imperfect or “modified,” will originate, either in adults or in children, vesicles perfectly circular, surrounded by areolæ, and corresponding exactly with the description given by the great discoverer of “a pearl on a rose leaf.”

2. That matter taken from adults who have previously suffered from small-pox, and been subsequently successfully vaccinated, will produce perfect vesicles in others, whether they bear marks of variola or cow-pox or not.

Possibly further investigation may prove that lymph from the latter source possesses superior anti-varioid properties to that derived from any other.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

RAPHAEL W. READ, F.R.C.S. Eng.,

Dublin, April, 1859.

Surgeon H.M. 30th Regiment.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—At the Comitia Majora held on Saturday, the 23rd inst., the following gentlemen were admitted Licentiates of the College under the recently enacted Bye-laws:—

DR. WILLIAM SALL, Army Medical Department.
DR. HENRY OSBORN, Southampton.
DR. JAMES RUSSELL, Birmingham.
DR. ROBERT STEPHENSON, Belfast.
DR. THOMAS JERVIS, Connaught-square.
DR. JOHN RICH. WARDELL, Mornington-road, Regent's-pk.
DR. RICHARD BUDD, Barnstaple.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 18th inst.:—

BARTER, CLEMENT SMITH, Bath.
BATHO, ROBT., Amesbury, Wiltshire.
CANDY, JOHN, Holloway.
DOWNS, PETER, Stockport, Cheshire.
EVANS, NICHOLL, Stoke Newington.
FARR, GEO. FRED., Baldock, Herts.