

5. The diminution of efficacy in vaccine matter after successive transmissions, is denied by most of the practitioners throughout the country; 170 medical men, and 11 committees of vaccination, have declared against this idea. Some practitioners vaccinated one arm with the old virus, and the other arm with new vaccine matter, and they affirm that the pustule and the cicatrix were exactly the same on both sides. Hence we cannot consider that any deterioration has been proved to exist.

6. The same number of vaccinators disprove of revaccination, at least as a general measure, because it might shake the confidence of the public in the efficacy of vaccination. Besides, the advocates of revaccination are by no means agreed on the period at which the second operation should be employed. Some mention 20 or 25 years after the first vaccination; others fix a much shorter period; finally, some would have us revaccinate the whole population every five years.

7. Of 6,652 revaccinations, the progress of which was regularly noted, there were 718 cases in which a normal pustule was obtained; in 1,283 cases, the pustule presented such doubtful appearances, that nothing could be concluded from them; finally, revaccination failed completely in 4,651 cases. Hence the reporter concludes, that as revaccination succeeded in so small a proportion of cases, the greater number of individuals are incapable of contracting vaccinia twice, and that a second vaccination would, generally speaking, be useless. Besides, even a successful revaccination does not guarantee the patient against the infection of small-pox, and the operation could never become general.

An interesting debate followed the reading of this report.

Mr. Piorry did not agree in the condemnation of revaccination by the reporter. He had frequently revaccinated, and thought that, in a fourth or fifth of the cases, the operation had been followed by a pustule which bore the same relation to the vaccine one as that of varioloid does to the pustule of small-pox.

Mr. Bousquet said, that of 138 cases of revaccination practised by him, 30 gave rise to a true pustule. At Versailles he had revaccinated 90 persons, and succeeding in 37 cases.

M. Honoré adopted the opinions expressed in the report; on the other hand, MM. Dubois, Bouillaud, and Deportes, thought that the question of revaccination had not been examined in a manner calculated to clear up so important a subject.

ACCIDENTAL SCALPING.

M. Leroy d'Etiolles presented the *whole* of the hairy scalp which had been torn off from the head of a woman by a carding machine. The woman survived this dreadful accident for fourteen months, and was finally carried off by hectic fever. The denuded cranium had exfoliated.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

On Saturday, the 15th instant, Mr. Fergusson amputated the thigh of a man, aged forty-five, who was labouring under extensive and chronic disease of the knee-joint. The patient, it seems, was recently dismissed from another Metropolitan hospital of no mean repute, with the following

sage injunction:—"Go home, keep your leg quiet, that is all it now requires; and you will be sure to get well." The patient, finding himself getting worse instead of better, applied for admission into King's College Hospital, about a week previous to the date of the operation. He was in a high state of hectic at the time. There was considerable functional derangement, and the constitution was evidently sinking under the disease. As the only chance that now remained of saving the patient's life was the immediate removal of the limb, in the presence of Dr. Todd, Dr. Budd, Mr. Partridge, and a numerous class, Mr. Fergusson amputated the thigh, at its upper third, by the flap operation. The posterior flap was made considerably longer than the anterior, in order to allow for the greater degree of retraction which takes place there. The tourniquet was not employed, the femoral artery being compressed by the fingers of an assistant. Mr. Fergusson operated with that coolness, neatness, and we may add *humanity*, for which he was so distinguished in the theatre of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. We have been present at several of his operations at King's College Hospital, from that of lithotomy to the division of the internal rectus muscle, and have observed the same coolness and dexterity in every instance.

After the limb was removed, the diseased parts were dissected. The point was literally burrowed through with abscesses. The bone was denuded in several places, and, considering the great extent of the suppurating surface, it is as surprising how the patient's constitution was enabled to withstand its ravages for several months, as it is singular how the nature of the disease could have escaped the notice of any hospital surgeon.

OBITUARY.

WE regret to state that Dr. Hope, author of the well-known work on Diseases of the Heart; died at Hampstead last week, in the forty-first year of his age. It is said that the cause of Dr. Hope's death was disease of the heart. A vacancy thus occurs in the office of Physician to St. George's Hospital.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

MR. CHURCHILL is about to publish a cheap edition of Sir A. Cooper's great work on Dislocations, under the superintendence of Mr. Bransby Cooper. This was the more necessary as a pirated edition has been for some time in the market, against which we understand an injunction has been obtained by Mr. Cooper.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE have been compelled to defer several communications until next week.

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