

quarters of one per cent. in the well-vaccinated, when attacked by small-pox. In the badly-vaccinated who recover from small-pox, there is a large amount of suffering and permanent disfigurement that might be prevented, and which should be looked upon as a very serious evil, more especially to the female sex.

Among children under fourteen years of age who have been vaccinated, it hardly ever proves fatal.

It should, however, be remembered, that no authorised system of vaccination has been established in England. All persons—medical men, clergymen, amateurs, druggists, old women, midwives, etc.—are allowed to vaccinate in any way he or she may think proper; and the persons operated on are considered to have been vaccinated. The consequence of this carelessness and want of arrangement is, that there has been, and is, a great deal of very inefficient, almost useless, vaccination performed in England.

These facts have been ascertained by your petitioner from a minute examination and classification of the cases of small-pox that have come under his notice at the Small-Pox and Vaccination Hospital, London; which cases were individually carefully recorded in the Hospital Register at the time of their occurrence, and the general result of which he has embodied and communicated to the profession, in the thirty-sixth volume of the *Transactions of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London*.

As an example of what can be done by efficient vaccination, your petitioner begs to state, that not one of the nurses or servants of the Small-Pox Hospital has had small-pox for the last twenty years. They have all been either vaccinated or re-vaccinated, on coming to live at the hospital.

Nearly all the junior members of the educated classes in this country have, for many years past, been vaccinated, almost without exception. What the educated classes have adopted by choice, after mature deliberation, can hardly, by the most perverted reasoning, be considered improper for the lowest and uneducated class to conform to; it is, in fact, what the latter themselves would most likely also adopt, by choice, if they were educated, and a little higher in the scale of society.

As the law now stands, it can hardly be considered just, individually, to the lower classes themselves. They are not obliged to be vaccinated; but they are not allowed to be inoculated, lest they should propagate small-pox, as they undoubtedly would by inoculation: so that if they do not choose to adopt vaccination, they are left to take small-pox in the natural way: this they almost certainly do take, sooner or later; and small-pox in the unvaccinated is one of the most fatal diseases in this country, destroying, as was before stated, 35 per cent. of those attacked by it.

Your petitioner having had frequent opportunities of judging from the vaccine cicatrices on the arms of seamen from Denmark and Sweden, who have become patients of the Small-Pox Hospital, of the efficient way in which they had been vaccinated, and who, having taken small-pox, have had it, almost invariably, in the lightest form. This, your petitioner believes, was entirely due to their having been so efficiently vaccinated; and, therefore, he ventures to recommend that similar arrangements to those in force in Denmark and Sweden, for conducting vaccination, should be adopted in England.

The many foreigners admitted, in a series of years, as patients at the Small-Pox Hospital, have enabled your petitioner to observe that vaccination is, as a rule, much better performed abroad than in England; that in fact it is far less satisfactorily performed in England than in any other country in Europe, owing, most likely, to a total absence of organisation of the subject in this country.

Your petitioner, therefore, fully convinced himself, from ample opportunities of judging for a period of twenty years, of the great good conferred on mankind by vaccination, when judiciously and carefully carried out; and knowing also, from ample experience in vaccination, of no objection to it, except unfounded prejudice, earnestly entreats your Honourable House to pass the Vaccination Bill, now before Parliament, in the full conviction that it will be, if provision be made for its due administration, a most beneficial act of the Legislature, for those who, from their carelessness, prejudices, and ignorance, or from their early age, are unable, on this subject, to take proper care of themselves. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

J. F. MARSON,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and
Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London.

May 26th, 1856.

ALEXIS ST. MARTIN, who, since submitting to the physiological experiments of Dr. Beaumont, has resided in Montreal, where he married and reared a family of five children, has again, after the lapse of nearly a quarter of a century, offered himself as a subject for digestive experiments. He is a Canadian by birth, a man of about medium height, of dark complexion, and rather hard features, now 52 years old, and bearing his age remarkably well. He is a laborer by occupation, and never a soldier as has been supposed; and at the time of the accident which ended in making his name so familiar to the scientific world, was in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company. The injury was produced by the accidental discharge of a gun, which carried away a part of some of the ribs, and made an opening into the stomach on the left side, and was so severe in its character as to threaten to prove speedily fatal. There is now a fistulous opening, oblong in shape, about an inch and a half in its longest, and three-quarters of an inch in its shortest diameter, nearly in a line with, and about four inches below the nipple, and between two and three inches from the cardio orifice. It occurred in 1822; and since the experiments of Dr. Beaumont, St. Martin has enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and has supported a large family by manual labor. He is now under the care of Dr. Bunting, an English surgeon, who has made provision for the support of his family, and who proposes to take him to Europe, where, we trust, he will be made the subject of more extensive, more varied, and more accurate experiments than heretofore. St. Martin constantly wears a compress over the fistulous orifice, otherwise the contents of the stomach would be immediately expelled. He is so valuable a subject for digestive experiments, that it is to be hoped that the profession will avail themselves of the present opportunity to obtain additional knowledge of the physiology of digestion. (*Charleston Medical Journal*, June 1856.)

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE JOURNAL. Communications for the Editor should be addressed, for the next three weeks, to the Office of the JOURNAL, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, instead of to his residence.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

POOR LAW FEES. A member of the Association asks whether he can claim a fee from a Board of Guardians under the following circumstances. He was sent for by the midwife to a woman in labour with her first child: delivery by the forceps was requisite. He had no order, but thought at the time that he could claim, if sent for by a midwife in a case of emergency. Can any of our associates kindly favour our correspondent and ourselves with precedents?

Communications have been received from:—SIR CHARLES HASTINGS; DR. LOTSKY; DR. STANNHOPE T. SPEER; MR. W. B. KESTEVEN; MR. E. L. HUSSEY; MR. PYE CHAVASSE; DR. W. BUDD; DR. PRIOR (Bedford); MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; DR. COCKLE; DR. KIDD; MR. G. M. HUMPHRY; DR. D. MACKINDER; MR. J. B. BRADSHAW; DR. JAMES TURNELL; MR. W. PREEN; MR. THOMAS UNDERHILL; and DR. P. H. WILLIAMS.

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