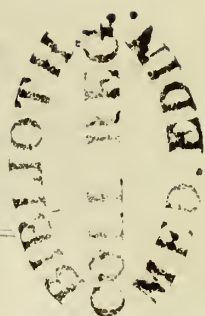


COPY OF THE REPORT to the Secretary of State, from the  
National Vaccine Establishment; dated 9th April 1818.



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LORD VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH,  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT,  
&c. &c. &c.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,  
Percy-street, 9th April 1818.

MY LORD,

THE Board of the National Vaccine Establishment have the honour to inform Your Lordship, that 9,193 persons have been vaccinated during the last year, at the different Stations appointed by them in London and the vicinity; and that 50,043 charges of Vaccine Lymph have been distributed to the public: both numbers being greater than in any former year.

In consequence of a deficiency in the returns, the total number vaccinated by the Honorary Members and Correspondents of the Board cannot be fully ascertained; but the Vaccinations of those who have sent Reports, amount to 87,529.

It will be gratifying to learn, that the method of preserving Vaccine Lymph in glass tubes, for its transmission to distant countries and hot climates, has proved successful. The Lymph having been lost in Jamaica, and in several of the West India Islands, several of these tubes were sent to Jamaica and to Barbadoes. Fortunately the Vaccine proved efficacious: and from the latter, Lymph has been diffused to Trinidad and to several other Islands, in which the practice of Vaccination has been resumed with activity and success.

His Excellency Sir Thomas Raffles, Governor of Sumatra, has lately communicated the very agreeable intelligence, transmitted by Baron Van de Capellan, Governor of Batavia, that the Vaccine Lymph, and Instructions, sent by the Board, had arrived in a perfect state; and that Vaccination was happily extending through that country.

Application has also been made to the Board, from His Excellency the Portuguese Ambassador, for Vaccine Lymph, with proper directions for its use, to be transported to the Brazils. This request was instantly complied with; and two English Surgeons residing at Rio de Janeiro, have been appointed Corresponding Members.

An account has been received from an English Surgeon, who lived some time at Abra, near Mount Lebanon, that the Vaccine has extended to that country from Constantinople; and that Vaccination is approved of and practised through the Levant.

As the Board neglect no means in their power for diffusing this salutary practice, encouragement has been given to numerous applications from respectable Surgeons, who were desirous of belonging to this Establishment. Many appointments have therefore been made, and Diplomas granted to the following Members:

Honorary Vaccinators	-	-	-	-	8
Stationary D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	11
Extraordinary D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	29
Corresponding D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	120
					<hr/>
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	168
					<hr/> <hr/>

Most of the Honorary Vaccinators are private Gentlemen, not in the Medical Profession, but ardent Patrons of Vaccination ; the others are all regular Medical Practitioners, chiefly settled in England, but some in Scotland and Ireland, the East and West Indies, New Holland, South America, and Africa. All these persons are actively engaged in propagating the preventive of the Small Pox.

But the Board are sensible that more is requisite than simply diffusing the Vaccine ; and that it is of the highest importance to extend, at the same time, a knowledge of the best mode of practice ; for they feel it their duty frankly to state, that accounts are occasionally received of Failures in Vaccination. Although these are few, when compared to the multitudes who are now annually vaccinated, yet they are sufficient to excite frequent alarm ; and these have occurred not only in various parts of this Island, but likewise in Ireland. In consequence of which, it appears that, in the latter kingdom, a very extensive Investigation was undertaken by the Directors of the Cow-Pock Institution, founded under the Patronage of the Lord Lieutenant.

The result of this Investigation has been published, and is highly satisfactory. It is therein mentioned, that “ several cases of supposed Small Pox after Vaccination, “ had come under the notice of the Directors in various parts of Dublin. In by “ far the greater number, the eruption began to decline on the sixth or seventh day “ from its appearance ; and although the eruptive fever was violent in many, none “ suffered secondary, or symptomatic fever on the decline of the pustules, as is “ usual in severe Small Pox : no lives were in danger, no bad marks or disfigura- “ tion of the face ensued.”

The Directors of the Dublin Institution had also sought for intelligence upon this interesting subject from their correspondents throughout that part of the United Kingdom ; and they received One hundred and forty letters, many of them written with much ability, and by men of very extensive experience. The Report proceeds to state, that “ these Communications, with a very few exceptions, confirm and “ coincide with the results observed at the Institution, and from the whole, “ convey the most decided conviction of the efficacy and utility of Vaccination in “ preventing Small Pox.”

Of this, one striking example is given, which fell under the immediate observa- tion of the Directors at Dublin. A patient delivered at the Lying-in Hospital was seized with confluent Small Pox ; her infant was vaccinated a few hours after birth, and never separated from the mother until the eleventh day, when she died of the malady ; yet the child was not infected with the Small Pox.

The continued investigation by this Board, of the Failures of Vaccination which have taken place here, lead also to conclusions similar to those of the Directors of the Dublin Institution ; and it has been found that almost all the subjects of these cases have been vaccinated by methods less effectual than those which have been adopted and inculcated by this Establishment. The great success of the practice of which, since its foundation in the year 1808, is the strongest inducement for the plan being generally followed. For which reason, the Board printed a new and corrected edition of their Instructions, which contain the Practice of the Establishment, and they are now distributing the copies gratuitously over the whole empire. Should these be accurately followed, and every person vaccinated be thoroughly infected with the regular Vaccine, the Board are fully convinced that Failures would become so rare, as hardly to merit the public attention.

Some exceptions, however, may be looked for, as the Small Pox occurs occa- sionally twice in the same individual ; and since the last Report of this Board to His Majesty's Government, twelve cases of Small Pox occurring after Small Pox, in this country, were communicated to the Board by Medical Practitioners.

Two of these cases were individuals who had had Small Pox from Inoculation, and who caught the second attack from being in houses where mitigated Small Pox after vaccination, had appeared.

Both of them, and one in particular, had the disease more severely than those who had been vaccinated.

The Board beg leave to invite the attention of His Majesty's Government to the following facts:

The pernicious practice of Small Pox Inoculation, now very generally relinquished by the Medical Profession, is only persisted in by a very few of the least creditable class of Practitioners, and is usually carried on clandestinely; yet the Board are concerned to state, that this destructive operation is now performed for gain, by itinerant Empirics, Farriers, Publicans, Nurses, low cunning people of both sexes, and of various descriptions. And such is the infatuation of the poor and ignorant, that many of them carry their infants to be inoculated by those, who only know how to inflict, but not how to assuage the violence of the Small Pox. The consequence has been, that many have perished under their management; and the disease, in particular districts, has been widely disseminated.

As this iniquitous conduct prevails much in London, an Epidemic Small Pox was last year excited among those who were not secured by Vaccination: for it appears by the Bills of Mortality, that 1,051 Persons died of this disease; a number which, according to a probable calculation, includes only two-thirds of those who actually fell victims to the Small Pox in the Capital. Complaints of the same injurious practices have been sent to the Board from various parts of England, and applications made for means of putting a stop to them.

In answer to these applications, the Board have transmitted a statement of the legal decisions which have taken place in those criminal Prosecutions instituted by their direction, in which the solemn opinions of the learned Judges of the Court of King's Bench were pronounced upon this subject.

From the above facts, however, it is but too evident, that notwithstanding these decisions, the existing laws are insufficient to prevent the propagating of a destructive pestilence throughout the land, by those who, from interested or mistaken motives, are thus inclined to disseminate a loathsome and mortal disease.

And after the experience of nearly twenty years in the efficacy of Vaccination as a preventive,—when by the united opinions of the most eminent in every civilized country, it is declared capable of wholly eradicating the Small Pox,—the Board cannot but regret that the progress of this invaluable Discovery should be retarded, and an afflicting waste of human life occasioned in this enlightened Empire, by the Designing and the Ignorant.

They therefore feel it a duty again to submit,—Whether, with a view to correct so great an evil, it might not be expedient to adopt some effectual legislative provisions calculated to prevent the spreading of Small Pox by promiscuous Inoculation.

J. LATHAM,  
(President of the Royal College of Physicians.)

<i>Christopher Pegge,</i>	} CENSORS of the Royal College of Physicians.
<i>Thomas Turner,</i>	
<i>John Ayrton Paris,</i>	
<i>John Noble Johnson,</i>	

*George Chandler,*  
MASTER of the Royal College of Surgeons.

<i>T. Keate,</i>	} GOVERNORS of the Royal College of Surgeons.
<i>David Dundas,</i>	

By Order of the Board,

*James Hervey,* M. D.

Registrar.

COPY OF THE REPORT to the Secretary of  
State, from the National Vaccine Establishment;  
dated 9th April 1818.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
*13 April 1818.*