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1881.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

V A C C I N A T I O N :

ENQUIRIES FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, AND REPLIES.

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August 26, 1881.



VACCINATION.

(CIRCULAR.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th August, 1881.

SIR,

I SHALL feel much obliged if you will be good enough to reply to the following questions, for the information of the Government, in the course of to-day:—

1. Have you been, and are you still, in the habit of vaccinating?
2. Have you any doubt as to the character and quality of the lymph used?
3. Has the vaccine disease following the operation been uniform in results, the pock maturing perfectly on the eighth day?
4. Has anything occurred leading you to believe that the lymph now used, such lymph having been originally supplied by the Government Board of Health in London, has lost any of its protective power?
5. Has any disease other than vaccine appeared in the cases operated upon by you?

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

REPLIES TO LETTERS.

Macquarie-street, 18th August, 1881.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Circular of this day's date, asking sundry questions *re* vaccination; and in reply have to state—

- 1st. That I have been, and am still, in the habit of vaccinating.
- 2nd. I have no doubt as to the character and (*good*) quality of the lymph used.
- 3rd. The vaccine disease following the operation has been uniform in results, the pock (vesicle) maturing perfectly on the eighth day.
- 4th. Nothing has occurred leading me to believe that the lymph now used has lost any of its protective power.
- 5th. No disease other than vaccine has appeared in any of the cases operated upon by me.

Having now answered all your questions, I may take this opportunity of informing you that I have never, during the last twenty years, known the quality or quantity of vaccine lymph to be better than it is now, and that nothing has occurred to justify the present agitation on the subject; and that I believe the lymph now in use is at least as good, and probably better, than any fresh supply which can be brought from England or elsewhere.

I have, &c.

R. S. BRIGHT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

1, Albert Terrace, 18th August, 1881.

SIR,

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, in which you solicit an answer to certain questions in connection with vaccination.

The subject being one of great importance, I regret time will not permit my doing more than touching upon each question in the briefest manner. I have thought it best to supply both questions and answers.

1. Have you been, and are you still, in the habit of vaccinating? I have been in the habit of vaccinating, at short intervals, during the last forty years, and at the present time almost daily.

2. Have you any doubt as to the character and quality of the lymph used? I have no doubt either as to character or quality. The lymph used, in the first instance having been obtained from two sources well known in England, the "Local Government Board of Health" and the "National Vaccine Institution," either of which are a perfect guarantee for its purity. That used locally is always taken from *healthy children* with vesicles fully developed, such children being the known offspring of *healthy parents*, and the lymph used never older than the *eighth day*.

3. Has the vaccine disease following the operation been uniform in results, the pock maturing on the eighth day? The disease following the operation has been the *true vaccinia*, uniform in results, the pock maturing perfectly on the eighth day, and terminating by well marked *cicatrices*, such only as are characteristic of the disease. The lymph, when examined microscopically, has never been found to contain any foreign substances, such as blood or pus corpuscular. Hence its purity.

4. Has anything occurred leading you to believe that the lymph now used, such lymph having been originally supplied by the Government Board of Health in London, has lost any of its protective power? I have no reason to believe, in the absence of an epidemic of small-pox to test the fact, that the lymph now used has in the least degree deteriorated, or lost its protective power. If I may judge from the *regular action* following vaccination, the maturation of the vesicle, and *undeviating* uniformity of the pock, and the absence of no characteristic that marks *true vaccinia*, the lymph is as good as when first used by Jenner, and if care be exercised in the selection of healthy children to vaccinate from, will remain the same to the end of time.

5. Has any disease *other than vaccine* appeared in the cases operated upon by you? Not any; I cannot call to mind a single instance in which any disease other than vaccine occurred in the cases operated on; nor should I expect such a result. I do not think it possible, *when using pure lymph*, taken on the eighth day from a healthy child, to *introduce any foreign disease* with it. The vaccine proper is a specific disease in itself, as small-pox is a specific disease, unconnected with, and cannot contain or be amalgamated with, any other disease. The lymph is a *new secretion*, homogeneous in itself, characteristic of the cow-pox and nothing else. If any disease other than vaccine be the result of vaccination, care could not have been taken in the performance of the operation, *blood or pus* having been mixed with the lymph in the selection of *healthy children* to vaccinate from.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE, CROWTHER, F.R.C.S.E.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Vaccination Office, 18th August, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date, containing certain questions relating to vaccination, and beg to furnish the following replies:—

1. I have vaccinated for the last twenty years, and am still in the habit of vaccinating. The operations performed by me number about 5000.

2. The lymph which I am now using is as active and, so far as I am able to judge, as good in every particular as it was twenty years ago.

3. As a rule, the vaccine disease following the operation has been uniform in its results; the vesicle running a regular course, and the areola well defined. In a very few cases the course run by the pock has been irregular, depending, I believe, either on an exceptional condition inherent in the child, or upon some external influence, such as exposure to cold, &c. Out of a number of children vaccinated with the *same* lymph, in one only may this modification be observed, whilst in all the rest the course is perfect,—a sufficient proof that the *lymph* is not to blame.

4. As the vaccine disease runs a regular course, and the resulting vesicle with its areola is perfect, I cannot for a moment doubt that its protective power is as great to-day as it was in the days of Jenner.

5. I have, as above stated, vaccinated about 5000 children, but I never found, nor even suspected, that any but the vaccine disease had been transmitted by the inoculation. Between 30,000 and 40,000 children have been vaccinated in this Colony during the last 20 years; can any medical man in Tasmania point to a single case in which syphilis or any other disease has resulted from the operation?

If, as some assert, the lymph has become tainted, judging from analogy, we should expect to mark some change in the appearance of the vesicle, and a deviation from the course usually run by the disease; but the vesicle is the same now, anatomically, microscopically, and chemically, as it was in the days of Jenner; it runs a similar course, and the symptoms are identical. So thoroughly convinced am I that the vaccine lymph can convey the vaccine disease only, that I should have no hesitation in submitting to vaccination with the lymph taken from a syphilitic child, provided that due care was taken to prevent the admixture of blood.

I have, &c.

GEORGE TURNLEY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Hobart, 19th August, 1881.

SIR,
IN reply to two letters received yesterday from you,—

(1.) I imported lymph about seven years ago, and vaccinated for a few months; since then I have done no vaccination.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

H. BENJAFIELD.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

[The latter portion of this letter refers to a previous correspondence, and does not contain replies to the remaining questions.]

REPLIES TO LETTERS—continued.

| Name and Address. | Have you been, and are you still, in the habit of vaccinating? | Have you any doubt as to the character and quality of the Lymph used? | Has the Vaccine Disease following the operation been uniform in results, the Pock maturing perfectly on the Eighth day? | Has anything occurred leading you to believe that the Lymph now used, such Lymph having been originally supplied by the Government Board of Health in London, has lost any of its protective power? | Has any Disease other than Vaccine appeared in the Cases operated upon by you? |
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| THOS. C. SMART, Hobart. | I am. | None whatever. | It has. | I have seen no proof whatever of its having lost any of its protective power. | None. |
| EDWARD O. GIBLIN, Hobart. | I have been, and am still, in the habit of vaccinating. | No. I used it to vaccinate my own child. | Yes. | I have had no opportunity of judging by actual observation, but have no reason to doubt its protective power. | None. |
| HENRY BUTLER, Stowell. | I have been in the habit of vaccinating for the last 40 years, but not for the last few months. | I have been careful to see the lymph I use, as it has been my custom to vaccinate from arm to arm, and only such lymph as I approve of. | In nearly every case the vaccination has been successful, the vesicle being well formed on the eighth day. | I see no difference either on the lymph or its effect on the constitution since I first saw it with Dr. Carpel. | I have not seen any cases in which other diseases have occurred as the result of vaccination. |
| G. H. BUTLER, Stowell. | I have been, and am still, in the habit of vaccinating. | I have no doubt as to the quality and character of lymph used. | Yes. | Nothing has occurred leading me to believe that the lymph has lost any protective power. | No other disease has appeared in the children vaccinated by me other than the vaccine disease. |
| H. A. PERKINS, Hobart. | Yes. | None. | Yes. | Nothing has occurred to lead me to believe that the lymph has lost its protective power. | No other than vaccine. |
| E. J. CROUCH, Hobart. | I have been, and still am, in the habit of vaccinating. | Not the slightest. | Yes, it has. | It has lost none of its protective power. | No disease has appeared. |
| EDWD. L. CROWTHER, Hobart. | Yes, prior to leaving for England, 18 years since. Whilst in England, during a period of ten years. On my return from England, during the last six and a half years. | None whatever. The pock is as characteristic of the true disease today as it was 18 years ago, and runs exactly the same natural course. This lymph has been put into my system, and should small-pox break out, it will be so again. | Perfectly uniform in result, the pock maturing on the eighth day. | As we have fortunately up to this time been exempt from an epidemic of small-pox, I cannot answer by the only practical test; but as I myself, who had been vaccinated and re-vaccinated with the lymph in question, never contracted small-pox when thrown with it, so I believe it is as good now as ever, and has not lost any of its protective power. | Never under any pretence whatever do I vaccinate with any but the colourless crystal drop of pure vaccine lymph, always discarding blood, pus, or any material the slightest opaque. Take this precaution, the operation is an absolutely safe one and cannot produce anything but itself. In the event of being unable to do it from arm to arm, I put each tube under the microscope prior to using it. |
| REPLIES TO TELEGRAMS. | | | | | |
| JAMES RICHARDSON, George Town. | Yes. | None. | Yes. | Has not lost any of protective power. | No other disease than vaccine has appeared in all cases operated upon by me; all results satisfactory. |
| JAMES LEVER, Campbell Town. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | Nothing whatever. | Not any. |
| W. G. MADDOX, Launceston. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | As small-pox has never been here, it is impossible to tell whether the lymph still retains its protective power. If the same lymph protects elsewhere, it ought to do the same here. | No. |

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| JAMES A. HARDY, Launceston. | Yes. | No. | Yes, within limits; pock maturing sometimes between morning of seventh day and evening of ninth. | No. | Never. I may state that all lymph used by me is from Adelaide, South Australia. |
| CHARLES A. STEWART, Launceston. | Do not vaccinate now as people will not come to Hospital. | Quality of lymph on hand undoubted, brought from Scotland by myself. | Always, within my knowledge. | Lymph has lost none of its protective power. | Occasionally erysipelas. |
| W. MASON, Launceston. | Yes. | None of the lymph I am now using. | Uniform in results, perfect on eighth day. | The lymph obtained from Hobart failed signally. | No other disease has appeared. |
| THOMAS HOSKINS, Fingal. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | No. | No. |
| W. R. STEWART, Launceston. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | In most cases, but I believe that the protective power of the lymph now used rarely lasts more than 7 or 8 years. I have known several cases of persons between 20 and 30 being successfully vaccinated three and four times from the ordinary lymph. | No. |
| JAMES APPELYARD, Longford. | Yes, for 25 years. | No. | I have thought that the ninth day would be better. | No. | No. |
| G. F. HUSTON, New Norfolk. | Yes. | I have no doubt that all the lymph used by me has been pure and good. | So far, invariably so. | No, certainly not. | I have never seen any.* |
| CHARLES TURNER, Richmond. | I have, since the 11th July, and am still doing so. | I have no doubt that the lymph is good. | It has, in every case. | There was not. | There has not. |
| J. H. P. OLDMEADOW, Evandale. | I have only vaccinated a heifer; it did not take; lymph from Dr. Turnley. | I think too dry; did not use it for some weeks; patients objected at the time: other private vaccinations have failed from the same cause. | .. | .. | In other years, no vaccine being from same source. |
| F. B. ST. GEORGE WILKINSON, Torquay. | Yes. | None. | Yes. | No. | No. |
| H. G. LAW, Beaconsfield. | Yes. | Every tiche took. | Yes, in all cases. | Not the least. | Perfect; no inflammation whatever; have been very fortunate, every case having taken, thanks to Dr. Turnley. |
| DENNIS ROCK, Deloraine. | Yes. | No. | Generally, but occasionally a little retardation, particularly when not vaccinating from arm to arm. | No. | No, but have occasionally been told of an eruption of a very fugitive character appearing after the eighth day, and which I have believed to be roseola. |
| J. M. MACNEECE, Deloraine. | Have been a Public Vaccinator about 18 years—13 years in Victoria, 5 years in Tasmania, and continue to do so daily. | Have no doubt whatever either as to character or quality of the lymph. | Always uniform in results, maturing on eighth day. | I am of opinion that the lymph originally supplied has lost none of its protective power. | Have never met with any disease other than vaccine following the operation. |
| L. F. DICKSON, Bothwell. | Yes, for many years. | No. | In many of my first vaccinations there has been a tendency to undue haste in maturation. By selecting the most regular, those last done have become very regular also. | No. | No. |

* These replies, however, apply principally to the present time, as I have but little recollection of former details, though I do not remember any occurrence adverse to health.

REPLIES TO TELEGRAMS—continued.

| Name and Address. | Have you been, and are you still, in the habit of vaccinating? | Have you any doubt as to the character and quality of the Lymph used? | Has the Vaccine Disease following the operation been uniform in results, the Pock maturing perfectly on the Eighth day? | Has anything occurred leading you to believe that the Lymph now used, such Lymph having been originally supplied by the Government Board of Health in London, has lost any of its protective power? | Has any Disease other than Vaccine appeared in the Cases operated upon by you? |
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| WALLIS McDONALD, Hamilton. | I have been, and am still, in the habit of vaccinating. | None whatever. | The result has always been satisfactory, excepting in one or two instances. | I am perfectly satisfied with the lymph, and believe it still retains its protective powers. | Not to my knowledge. |
| W. ALLNUTT, Westbury. | Yes. | I believe it to be perfectly good and efficacious. | Yes, except that cold weather retards maturation somewhat, as in England. | The effects of the lymph are just the same as I observed in England. | Never in any case. |
| W. H. MACFARLANE, New Norfolk. | I have vaccinated in New South Wales, not in this Colony. | No. | Not always. | I have not used the lymph in this Colony. | No. |
| J. S. PARK, Campbell Town. | I am acting as Dr. Naylor's <i>locum tenens</i> , and have not vaccinated since I took charge, &c. | | | | |
| R. W. MURPHY, Launceston. | Yes. | None. | Yes. | Nothing. | No. |
| C. N. J. WILLES, Oatlands. | Have been vaccinating at intervals for 35 years, 24 years in this Colony. Am vaccinating at the present time. | Have never used lymph about which I had any doubt. | Results not absolutely uniform with regard to maturation on eighth day, but nearly always. | No, I place thorough reliance in the lymph which I have received from Dr. Turnley, the vesicles produced having been perfect, except in cases of revaccination. | Not any, to my knowledge. |
| J. B. MASON, Longford. | Have vaccinated for 23 years, and am now vaccinating every day in the week; 125 in the last fortnight. | None. | Yes, with very few accidental exceptions. | No. | Never. |
| JAMES MARK MORRIS, Lefroy. | Yes. | I have used the lymph sent in three cases, and have been unsuccessful. | Not taken. | I believe it has lost its power. | No. |
| E. P. VINES, Swansea. | Have been vaccinating since last June, and am still doing so. | Have no reason to doubt the quality of lymph, which was supplied me by the Board of Health, Melbourne. | Yes. | No. | None whatever. |
| SYDNEY R. SMYTH, Latrobe. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | No. | No. |
| ROBERT BLYTH, Sorell. | I have been in the habit of vaccinating for more than 50 years. I am still vaccinating. | No doubt whatever. | Very uniform in results, the pock maturing on the eighth day. | Am confident that the lymph has lost none of its protective powers. | None other than vaccine disease has appeared, occasionally surrounding redness more extensive, in one instance slight eruption; in all my practice I have occasionally noticed these. In all my experience of 40 years in this colony I have never before obtained vaccine virus so correct in time and results as that recently furnished me by the Government. |

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| H. J. DALDY, Three Hut Point. | Yes. | None. | With one or two exceptions. | Lymph forwarded by Superintendent inefficacious; obtained good lymph from a child vaccinated in Hobart. | None. |
| J. H. DUNDAS, Leven. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | No. | No. |
| H. A. LOVETT, Swansea. | Yes. | No. | Except in one or two cases which have been re-vaccinated, one case developed after the eighth day. | No. | No. |
| FREDERICK HOMAN, Circular Head. | Yes, till recently, for Government of Victoria. | Lymph not used as yet, I shall to-morrow.* | | | |
| THOMAS WILSON, Table Cape. | Yes. | No. | Yes. | No. | No. |
| FREDERICK OCKLEY, Scottsdale. | Yes. | I have examined the lymph forwarded under the microscope, and am well satisfied of its quality. | I have not yet vaccinated here. | Not yet. | I have, on the average for 10 years in England, vaccinated from ten to fifteen hundred infants per annum, and have never yet known of a single case where any other disease was communicated by the operation, due care being taken in the selection of the lymph. |

* Remaining questions cannot be answered at present.