

MISCELLANIES,
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ESSAYS, TRACTS OR ADDRESSES
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

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COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Written by request for a Public Meeting. 1884.

DEAR SIR,—You invite me to send forth from your platform my thoughts concerning our Compulsory Vaccination. I can only treat it from its moral, constitutional, and legislative side; and on all I deeply and unhesitatingly condemn it.

(1.) As the rightful power of every King, so the rightful power of every Legislature, has limits notorious to common sense. No one may forbid Perfect Health, any more than command Vicious acts. No one may command the infusion of Disease into a healthy body: even as a punishment, that is wrongful. Again: No legislator may delegate his legislative vote, and make himself a mere voting-tool obedient to a medical expert.

(2.) By recommending Re-Vaccination the Medical Faculty confess that Vaccination has not permanent virtue: yet they cannot tell us how long it lasts. Eminent men declare that it cannot be depended on *at all*, at the precise time *when* (if ever) *it is most needed*; that is, in a season of prevalent Small Pox. Nature tries to *throw off* the Vaccine ulcer, and the stronger the vitality, the quicker it is thrown off, and normal health is regained. What then says the wise Surgeon? *Re-vaccinate him!!* This virtually avows, that the patient is to be permanently kept in real unhealth, in order to avoid possible disease! And an eminent advocate of Vaccination plainly confesses *their aim* to be the *maintenance of an artificial state*.

(3.) Has not Parliament the wit to know, that the Medical Faculty thrives on public unhealth, and starves on public health; and therefore their advice ought rather to be listened to with cold suspicion than with modest deference.

(4.) Vaccinators keep the Small-Pox register; and their Tables prove that in years of worst Small-Pox there is somewhat less Total Mortality. By no argument but that of Figured Tables do they plead for Vaccination; and lo! their own figures prove that (if they can prove anything) Small-Pox is an effort of Nature that saves us *from something worse*; and that no Government ought to

concern itself about this disease more than about every other. To obviate it by extirpating its causes, is good sense ; to infuse a new disease without caring to extirpate the causes of the existing disease, is a want of common sense.

(5.) Nor only so ; but to leave the causes of Small-Pox unchecked, and study to avert the coming out of the disease to the surface, is against all received principles. Nature tries to throw morbid matter out ; Physicians dread this, while unable to deny that it lessens Total Mortality. A great Chemist has told Parliament that Vaccination *saves* 80,000 lives yearly. Indeed !!!

(6.) When first it was asserted that Syphilis might be propagated by Vaccination, the doctors vehemently denied the fact, and Medical Writers declared (as in the *Times*), that *if* such a thing could be proved, Vaccination could not stand. But when it no longer could be denied, the doctors were not at all ashamed of the insults they had poured on Anti-Vaccinators ; but, as if to smother us by pompous words, have only become more insolent and more dogmatical.

(7.) Parliament has no right to infuse *anything* into the blood of *the healthy* : how much less to infuse *filth* of which no expert can know the ingredients ? and pretend to do it for health, and give no guarantee than it is not deadly poison !

(8.) Parliament has not defined *what is* Vaccination. Experts quarrel about it. It is a mere *name*, yet is imposed by law !

(9.) The Doctors by their zeal for Re-Vaccination betray their distrust of Vaccination, while boldly praising its virtues to their dupes, and not their silliest dupes, the educated classes.—
Yours truly,

F. W. NEWMAN.