

The report from the Surgeons, which is annexed to this address, and which contains plain and simple instructions for conducting vaccine inoculation, is too long to be here inserted. But we may observe, that there is every reason to believe, that the address to the Clergy has been attended with very beneficial effects. Of this we might produce many evidences; but we shall content ourselves with laying before our readers two letters on this subject from respectable clergymen.

The first is a letter from Mr John Duguid, minister at Evie, in the Orkney Islands, to the Reverend Dr George Baird, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Committee for promoting Vaccine Inoculation. Mr Duguid writes as follows:

REVEREND SIR,

Having lately received a copy of an address from the Managers of the Vaccine Institution at Edinburgh to the Ministers of the Church of Scotland, I am persuaded it will be agreeable to those engaged in so benevolent an undertaking, to be informed, that the practice which they recommend to the clergy in general, has been some time ago

adopted in this remote corner by a clergyman, without any pretensions to medical knowledge, and has been attended with the best effects.

In summer 1802, I inoculated one of my own children, a boy about four years of age, with vaccine matter. But being no farther acquainted with the due symptoms and progress of the cow-pox, than from some descriptions which I had occasionally read or heard, I could not with much confidence judge of the effect. Last winter, the small-pox began to make their appearance in this and the neighbouring parishes. I had then another child, a daughter about eight months old, who was liable to infection; and the small-pox continuing to draw nearer, I inoculated both her and the boy, whom I have just mentioned, with variolous matter. The girl had the small-pox very favourably at the regular time; but the boy was no farther affected than by a slight inflammation in his arm, which disappeared about the eighth or ninth day. I was therefore fully satisfied that he was protected by the previous vaccine inoculation.

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In the mean time, the small-pox continued to advance rapidly, proving generally severe, and in some cases fatal; and as the disease had not been in the parish for above ten years, there was a great number of young people exposed to the infection. A considerable degree of prejudice against inoculation prevailed with many, and others were discouraged by their remote situation and mean circumstances from applying for medical assistance. In a case of such necessity, I thought it incumbent on me to do all I could to avert a danger which seemed otherwise unavoidable. Having then no opportunity of procuring vaccine matter, I inoculated about twenty-five children for the small-pox, who all had the disease in its mildest form. I proceeded, however, in this kind of inoculation with no small diffidence and reluctance, as even a single instance of its proving fatal, or leaving bad effects, would have given great uneasiness to me and to those concerned. I therefore recommended as much as possible the expediency of applying to a surgeon, who might introduce the cow-pox.

A surgeon being at length called from a very considerable distance, inoculated from forty to fifty children for the cow-pox, and with much

liberality gave me leave to take matter from his patients. I found that many who had omitted to employ him were very willing to have the operation performed by me. The example of its success in my own family, and the assurance I was able to give them of its efficacy and perfect safety, prevailed on many to have recourse to a remedy which they saw to be attended with little trouble, and which was offered to them without expence. I inoculated, at different times, about 120 young persons with vaccine matter, and have every reason to be satisfied with the success of my endeavours.

The small-pox became so general in every part of the parish, that scarcely any could be supposed to be without the reach of the infection during the whole time of their continuance. Indeed, I have not heard of a single person in the parish liable to infection, who escaped it on this occasion, except those who were inoculated. But not one of those on whom the vaccine inoculation had time to produce its due effect, was afterwards seized with the small-pox. The variolous eruption did indeed appear on some, after the vaccine virus had been communicated to them; but when it did, it was in every instance only a few

few days after the operation, and in such circumstances as left no room to doubt that the infection had taken place before the inoculation. Yet even in these cases it was observable, that the small-pox were more than usually favourable.

In several families it happened, in consequence of the negligence and irresolution of the parents, that some children were inoculated for the cow-pox, after the small-pox had appeared upon others from whom they could not be separated. Yet, even in these unfavourable circumstances, the vaccine inoculation afforded, in general, a complete protection. In short, the good effects of the cow-pox in this place were so evident as to overcome all prejudice. The people, therefore, under my charge will not hesitate, I expect, in time to come, to have recourse to so easy and effectual a preservative from one of the most painful and most dangerous of diseases.

The plan proposed to the Ministers of the Church of Scotland by the Managers of the Vaccine Institution, is peculiarly adapted to situations such as mine, remote from medical assistance; and is perhaps the only plan by which their benevolent purposes can be fully accomplished. To bear a part in diffusing the import-
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ant benefits of a discovery so beneficial to mankind, must afford the highest satisfaction to all who have it in their power. And that vaccine inoculation may be performed with perfect safety and success by the ministers in their respective parishes, though they may be entirely un-instructed in medicine in general, is exemplified by my experience.

If you think that this account of the circumstances which first induced me to undertake the practice of inoculation, and of the success attending my endeavours, contains any thing that may appear worthy of notice, I beg you will have the goodness to lay it before the other Managers of the Vaccine Institution, with assurances of my highest respect and warmest wishes for the success of their humane and generous labours. I am, with sincere esteem, Reverend Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN DUGUID,

MANSE OF EVIE, ORKNEY, }

20th July 1803. }

The second is a letter from the Reverend Mr John Monteath, minister of Houstoun in Renfrewshire, addressed to the Managers of the