

disease. Till better means therefore of preserving the matter are discovered, the progress of the Vaccine Inoculation in the country will, I fear, be but slow, notwithstanding every day's experience should continue to confirm its importance.

The eldest of the children who was left at Horncastle, was inoculated some weeks afterwards with recent matter procured in the neighbourhood, had the disease in its most decided form, and has since been twice inoculated for Small-pox without any effect.

One of your correspondents has remarked, that persons with a smooth clear skin, flaxen hair, and light eyes, are least susceptible of Vaccine infection; these children were precisely of this temperament.

Horncastle, Lincolnshire,
July 7, 1801.

I am, &c.
JOHN FAWSETT.

The Editors perceive that Dr. Fawsett's ideas on this subject are perfectly correct, and assure him that *proper virus*, inclosed between two glass plates, may be sent to China, and never fail to communicate the disease. This method of sending virus to a distance is always employed by Dr. Jenner, who never uses any that is not taken before the areola is fully formed. When taken later it is not to be depended upon as a preventive of Small-pox, although it will produce a disease imitative of the true Vaccine.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the enclosed communication be deemed worthy a place in your excellent Miscellany, its insertion will much oblige your constant reader and well wisher,

Kesworth, July 1, 1801.

JOHN STEVENSON.

THE numerous and very respectable testimonials, detailed in the various numbers of your excellent Journal, relative to the successful and extensive inoculation of the Vaccine Disease, might seem to render any further communications on the subject unnecessary, since its character as a prophylactic to the variolous infection is now, it may be supposed, fully established. Notwithstanding, however, the mass of *apparently satisfactory* evidence in its favor, I cannot persuade myself that the practice has been brought to the zenith of perfection, and, as such, incapable of farther elucidation and improvement. Else, how shall

shall we reconcile the discordant representations of its great severity, and even mortality in some individuals, with the infinitely greater proportion of successful cases, in which the subjects of the disease have experienced little constitutional derangement, though they have equally participated of its salutary preventive influence? I am aware that the abettors of the new system will answer, that this contrariety of effects depends upon the degenerated state of the matter employed, and a want of discrimination between the genuine and spurious Vaccinia. It is not however to be expected, notwithstanding the attention that has been bestowed upon its investigation by men eminently qualified both by their talents and opportunities for making accurate observations, that all its different modifications and nice dependencies are, at so early a period after its introduction, compleatly developed. I am ready to admit that where the Vaccine virus has exerted unusual violence in its operation, the cause is to be sought for in the peculiar irritability of the constitution of the individual at the time of insertion, disposing it to take on a morbid train of actions, rather than to its specific deleterious nature. At the same time, from the two cases which have fallen under my immediate inspection, and which I shall here beg leave to enumerate, I do not feel perfectly satisfied that it is *universally* and *infallibly* an antidote to the Small-pox.

This supposition is at least admissible, if we may be allowed to deduce our opinions from the prevalence of what are considered the diagnostic symptoms of the genuine Cow-pox, as in no instance that has come to my knowledge, has their existence been so clearly marked, and so fully divested of obscurity in every particular, as the following.

Master Thomas-Harvey-Toton Notts, aged two years, was inoculated with Vaccine matter on the 1st of June, 1800, taken from a young lady in the same village, on the ninth day of the disease, and immediatly inserted without dilution, in its perfectly limpid state, into both arms. On the fourth day, the matter had evidently taken effect, and on the fifth a small vesicle appeared, which gradually enlarged till the eighth, when my patient became uneasy, fretful, and somewhat feverish. These symptoms abated in the space of forty-eight hours. The beautiful erysipelatous circumscribed efflorescence, or areola around the pustule, which was distended with a transparent fluid, continued to increase in circumference till the twelfth day. From this period it spontaneously though gradually subsided, the matter in the pustule being all this time of an aqueous colour and consistence. The pustule began now to assume a dark complexion, and an eschar formed, which separated in about

about a fortnight afterwards. On the ninth day a few red eruptions appeared, scattered thinly over the body like measles, which in the space of four days turned brown, and soon desquamated, nor did they contain any fluid during their continuance. In short, I know not of any variation in the symptoms from the commencement to the termination of the disease, from those which uniformly occur in the Cow-pox, save the cutaneous eruptions, which are not a necessary or usual concomitant.

On the eighth day, Master Edward-Harvey, aged seven years, was inoculated with matter taken from his brother. It would be nugatory to state the particulars of his symptoms, and it is only necessary to mention that he went through the disease in a more mild, though equally distinct form.

In six months afterwards, both these young gentlemen were inoculated with recent variolous matter, in order to remove from the minds of their parents all doubts of the efficacy of the Cow-pox as a preservative against the contagion of the variola. As for myself, I entertained not the least apprehension of any effects from the inoculation, and in this conviction I deemed a preparative course quite superfluous. The matter which had been thus introduced, instead of dying away on the third or fourth day as I had anticipated, began to produce inflammation on both their arms. You may conceive my confusion and chagrin, when on the eighth day, I received a message requesting me to visit my young patients, who complained of head-ache, chillness, sickness, and the other precursory symptoms of Small-pox. On my arrival, I found, to my sincere regret, that there was little doubt of their having the genuine variolous fever. The pustules on the arms of both were fully distended with purulent matter, and considerably inflamed around their margins. In Master Edward, on the following day, a full crop of eruptions supervened. With respect to his brother, the eruptive fever was much milder, a circumstance that was owing probably to his being more exposed to the open air in addition to the very soluble state of his bowels. The pustules too never attained to that high degree of maturity as in Master Edward. For after being red, and bounded by a marginal inflammation, and being filled with a much less proportion of purulent contents, they sooner turned brown and exsiccated, a symptom not unusual in very favourable cases of variola.

That this secondary disease was the real Small-pox, admits not of a doubt, since many children were inoculated successfully with matter taken from Master Edward. It may be proper to observe in this place, that the young lady from whom Master T. Harvey received the Cow-pox, has been lately inoculated with variolous matter, but did not take the infection.

This fact coincides with some instances of Small pox, in which the patient (as is said on good authority), is endowed with the power of communicating the genuine disease to other individuals who shall be susceptible of the contagion a second time, whilst the constitution of the first is shielded from its repeated aggression.

These histories and reflections are transmitted, not with a view to depreciate this grand innovation in medicine, or to prejudice the minds of benevolent parents, anxious for the welfare of their tender offspring, against its further propagation. On the contrary, I feel sincerely disposed to congratulate the world at large on the happy introduction of the Jennerian Inoculation, from the conviction, that in various and important particulars it holds a decided preference over the Small-pox, which disease will probably, ere long, be completely exterminated, and known to future ages, probably, (as the true leprosy is to us), only by traditional knowledge. So far, therefore, am I from wishing to check the extending empire of its benign influence, that I publish the above cases, only as a corroboration of the close analogy that subsists in various relations between this new disease and the Small-pox. I am desirous also to stimulate those who have sufficient opportunities for the purpose, to endeavour to collect such characteristic features of the genuine idiopathic Cow-pox, as may enable practitioners to recognize, when it will prove certainly efficacious as a guardian to the constitution against the subsequent agency of the Variolous contagion, and under what circumstances a failure may, with equal probability, be apprehended.

This point appears the grand desideratum in the new Inoculation, which, if once obtained, would do away the mistakes arising from a spurious disease, and eventually establish its reputation on a permanent and unobjectionable basis.

A Case of Lepra Grecorum, or Psoriasis Inveterata;
by CHARLES PEARS, F. M. S. &c. &c.

[With an Engraving.]

To the Editors of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING met with a severe case of that singular disease, called the *Lepa Grecorum*, I was anxious to preserve the appearances